

inside SOCCER

REGISTERED WITH AUSTRALIA POST AS A PUBLICATION: PP224696/00050 Incorporating *Champion Soccer*, established 1992. ISSN 1321-8980

\$2.50

DUNTROON PUBLISHING: Suites 4/5, 108 Railway Street, Corrmal, NSW 2518. Australia. TEL: (02) 4285 7480 FAX: (02) 4285 7400 e-mail: insidesoccer@hotmail.com



SOUTH ON TARGET FOR BACK TO BACK CHAMPIONSHIPS



MARCONI STAR STRIKER Francis Awaritefe refused to blame the North Sydney Oval turf for the size of his side's loss. "The grass was really short and the pitch was hard," he admitted after the match which saw Spirit win 4-0 in a canter, "but it was the same for both sides. We can't use that as an excuse. Now Marconi must pick up for this weekend's match against Brisbane Strikers." Brisbane beat Marconi in the opening match of the season at Suncorp Stadium and coach Frank Farina will have a point to prove against his old side.

SOUTH Melbourne go into the second half of the season in pole position after battling Wollongong scored its fourth straight win over Perth and shocked the 14,826 crowd when a Matthew Horsley shot ricocheted off New Zealand international Hay for the only goal last weekend.

The Lakeside club are now coming into the business end of the season in which they hope to achieve back to back championships.

And on Saturday they get the chance to keep the bandwagon rolling at Gippsland after having a week off courtesy of the bye.

Hapless Canberra, without a win in 22 games - an all-time NSL record which may never be broken, looked set to take maximum points at Mobil Park through a 44th minute Peter Buljan goal, but Levent Osman levelled with five minutes to go.

At South Australian Hindmarsh Stadium, Sydney United trailed 1-0 for much of the second half to a 46th minute Derek Poimer strike but Adelaide defender Paul Pezos was

sent off in the 58th minute.

Santalab levelled in the 78th minute with Sterjovski scoring the winner 12 minutes later.

Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic described his team's loss to Sydney Olympic as one of the "most embarrassing moments" of his career.

The silence in Adelaide's Belmore Sports Ground dressing room after the game was deafening as Matic munched on sandwiches "to stop myself from eating the chairs and tables".

Norman Tome opened Olympic's account after only 55 seconds and the league's leading scorer, Pablo Cardozo, notched his 11th of the campaign just after halftime.

Former Olyroo Bradley Hassell pulled a goal back in injury time and it made his captain Alex Tobin's missed penalty kick five minutes earlier all the more agonising for Adelaide.

But coach Matic said his team did not deserve a draw.

Melbourne Knight Ivan Kelic logged his 100th (although some statisticians claim it was his 101st) in the national

league to put his team 1-1 with Carlton at halftime but the home team prevailed 4-2 with two second half goals by striker Alex Moreira.

Northern Spirit's scoring problems disappeared at North Sydney on Friday when it hammered local rival Marconi 4-0.

Spirit scored only 11 times in its first 13 games, but netted three times in the first half against Marconi.

"The day was going to come that we were going to give some team a hiding," Spirit coach Graham Arnold said.

Newcastle Breakers extended their unbeaten record to five games with a hard fought 1-0 victory over Brisbane Strikers at Breaker Stadium on Friday and finish the season's first half as the surprise package.

Diminutive striker John Buonavoglia secured the points with a 75th minute goal.

Eight teams are still very much in the hunt for a Top Six spot - and all could even take out the League Premiership.

Newcastle Breakers resurgence has also made them a chance for the Six while only Brisbane

Strikers look a contender from the others.

Manfred Schaefer must be expressing concerns at his side's slump, which has seen them slip out of the Six and drifting haplessly down to the cellar where regional sides Wollongong, Gippsland and Canberra are taking up residency along with Melbourne Knights.

The major shock of Round 15 was the way in which Northern Spirit swept aside Marconi at Spirit Park last Friday.

Stallions coach Frank Farina was in a livid mood after the match and gave his players a severe lashing.

And with good cause as his midfield failed to compete and his back line gave away at least two silly goals.

But it was good news for Spirit as the win saw them climb into the Top Six.

Bouyed on by giant crowds the Sydneysider new guys will be hoping that the return of injured former Norwich City defender Ian Crook can help them on their way.

Next week sees a double round of games with the Australia day holiday fixtures also on the card.

Inside Soccer

**AUSTRALIA'S SOCCER BIBLE IS IN YOUR
NEWSAGENCY EVERY TUESDAY**

Knights still in strife

REPORTS from Newcastle indicate that the incident involving the trashing of a Breakers dressing room may not warrant a Soccer Australia tribunal.

The incident, which happened on 18 December and received widespread media attention, was expected to be the subject of a tribunal.

The game finished in a 2-2 draw with the Breakers equalising in controversial circumstances.

Later there were claims from the Melbourne Knights that coloured defender Ransford Banini was the subject of racial abuse.

However, no date has been set by Soccer

Australia for any tribunal and it appears it may not eventuate.

A Soccer Australia official has confirmed that no date has been set.

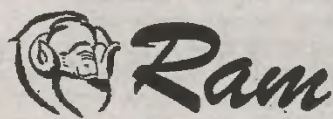
However, it was confirmed that reports on the incident from both the Knights and Breakers have been submitted.

The Knights were also under fire again in Round 14 match when visiting Perth coach Bernd Stange slammed them for the state of their Somers Street ground, claiming that they were "amateur".

Knights Olyroo keeper Joe Didulica has dismissed the claim as sour grapes because of the result.

INSIDE SOCCER Australia's weekly soccer Bible

Stop press



HIGH QUALITY SOCCER PRODUCTS

Official Ball Licencee of Soccer NSW

Official Ball supplier to the Australian Women's Soccer Association

FIFA Approved FIFA Inspected Match Balls

The Australian Owned Sports Brand

Trade Enquiries: (02) 9826 7033

Kosmina break's media silence

By TONY MOFFITT

BRISBANE Strikers coach John Kosmina broke his weeklong media blackout last Friday night granting an exclusive press interview to *Inside Soccer*.

For the week leading up to the Newcastle v Strikers match (Kosmina's first visit to the New South Wales steel city since leaving the club at the end of last season) Kosmina proved a difficult man to talk to.

Inside Soccer was on hand after the game and found the former Socceroo happy to talk about football - but only football.

The controversial talking point of the match - the boisterous reception Kosmina received from a hostile crowd - was a strictly

'no-go' zone.

Kosmina bluntly refused to become involved in a 'talk about politics, or anything else apart from the game itself'.

However the former Breakers coach was

willing to give his impressions on the game played in Newcastle in front of the club's biggest crowd of the season.

The Breakers won the match with a single goal in the 75th minute.

The interview followed a post-match press conference which Kosmina did not attend.

Prior to boarding the Brisbane Strikers team bus Kosmina was calm and philosophical about his team's performance against a dominant, yet shot-shy, Newcastle outfit.

"I thought we played well, Kosmina reflected.

"We certainly weren't outplayed."

Kosmina told *Inside Soccer* that he was pleased with his side's efforts, considering the

make-up of the team.

"It was a patch-up squad really. We're suffering from injuries and the like and as a result I was asking a lot from a bunch of very young men," Kosmina explained.

Throughout the interview Kosmina was generous in his praise of his own team.

"There are some talented youngsters in the team, Kosmina enthused.

"Kids like Shane Stefanutto and Des Hughes have great futures.

"But they're inexperienced.

"They can't be ex-

pected to play at this level week after week."

Kosmina was reserved about commenting on the Newcastle Breakers although he believed they lacked patience, especially in the first half.

"We came to town knowing it was going to be a tight game. I always thought there would probably only be a single goal in it,

either way," he said.

"We tried a different shape on the park to-

night. "We didn't try to play the fast break, we looked to control the ball and I think we did that - it was simply a matter of how things turned out because we played a team that dropped off the ball very quickly in defence."



John Kosmina: hostile reception in Newcastle

Patron Paul at the Corporate Games

By Alan Clark

FORMER Socceroo skipper Paul Wade (pictured right) is, once again, Sports Patron for the forthcoming Australian Corporate Games Oki Football Championships to be held at Parramatta Melita Stadium and nearby pitches over the weekend of 13 and 14 March 1999.

The Australian Corporate Games is a multi-sport competition for teams and individuals representing companies and businesses.

Football will again likely be the biggest single event, with a men's open competition, a women's six-a-side, and a veterans' six-a-side (over 30-years-old) tourna-



ment.

Games Director, Mr Walt Hiltner said: "The soccer competition is proving to be the flagship of the Australian Corporate Games.

"We didn't intend for it to be that way, but each year we create more capacity for soccer, and each year we get more teams than we expected.

"Soccer is a run-away success in the Games, although the Games cov-

ers other sports as well.

"It's usually been the first sport filled, even though we've greatly increased the number of teams we cater for."

Last year's winners - Mercantile Mutual, Ansett, St George Bank, and the Australian Defence Forces will be back to defend their titles, but there will be many others also seeking football medals and Games Championship points as well.

Companies and businesses encourage participation in the Games to help team-spirit and health in the workplace.

Many employers also fund or subsidise their teams' entry costs.

In the men's open competition, 96 teams have

been catered for in 24 groups of four teams meeting in pool play, with group winners advancing to an elimination phase.

Group games are scheduled for Saturday 13 March, and the elimination phase for Sunday 14 March.

Matches are of 30 minutes duration, with speedy turn-arounds meaning a game starts on a pitch once every 40 minutes - the action is fast, and there's little time to waste - one-day football, at multi-pitch venues!

There will be official match referees supplied.

For the men's open, full-sized pitches are used and teams comprise the full eleven players.

Smaller pitches operate for the women's and over-30s men's six-a-side events.

Further details of the football competition, or the Games in general, as well as entry forms, can be obtained from the Australian Corporate Games Office on (02) 8354-0216.

Entries should be made before 12 February, but the earlier the entry, the more chance your team will have of obtaining a spot.

The Games office is also happy to hear from those who might not be able to participate on the park, but would like to help out for a part-day or full day in an administrative or organising capacity.

Complex TV rights case begins

By Trevor Marshallsea

The stranglehold enjoyed by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB in televising English Premier League soccer may be set to change due to a landmark court case which began last week.

The case, a complex affair before the Restrictive Practices Court which is expected to last two months, will turn the spotlight on the long established norms of team sports broadcasting, not just in Britain but in several other countries.

Britain's Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has asked the Restrictive Practices Court for a ruling on whether BSkyB's exclusive contract to broadcast live Premier League matches is the result of an illegal cartel on the part of the clubs.

Aside from BSkyB's \$A1.745 million four-year deal until 2001, the Court will also consider the BBC's \$A190 million payment to show highlights on its long-running Match of the Day.

Legal opinion is split as to the likely outcome.

The OFT's complaint is that since BSkyB took over the rights in 1992-93 from terrestrial

stations, the number of people able to watch live top division soccer has plummeted - from more than 7 million to around one million.

The opposing argument is that without the money injected into the game because of the Sky deal, the fans would not be watching highly priced foreign stars like Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp and Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola, and would not be doing so in the vastly improved stadia where the league is contested.

The OFT claims the Premier League's negotiation of the current contract was in effect the action of a cartel of the 20 Premier League clubs which has artificially inflated the price fans must pay to watch the game.

It highlights the fact that not only do those wanting live soccer have to subscribe to Sky, they are then only guaranteed 60 out of 380 games per season.

The clubs and the League counter that by pointing out almost every team sport in the world negotiates collective deals for broadcasting rights. But the OFT says soccer here - and by implication all other team

sports - should be treated like any other commercial activity.

That is, to allow the commodity - the teams - to sell their own TV rights on an individual basis.

The OFT says this would mean more broadcasters could buy soccer rights, that more games could be shown on TV, with more people able to watch, often for free if terrestrial networks get back in on the action.

However, the League's obvious comeback is that 20 clubs trying to cut their own TV deals would be chaotic, particularly in the scheduling of fixtures, and that the big clubs would prosper while the poor struggled.

Murdoch may appear to be sitting pretty under the present arrangement, with News International's 40-per cent owned BSkyB dominating soccer coverage here.

But ironically, an OFT victory would provide him a palatable result, since BSkyB could be expected to sign up the rights to, say, the top 12 clubs at a vastly reduced rate to what it pays under the deal signed in 1996.

With the court case in mind, analysts have inter-

preted Mr Murdoch's bid, through BSkyB, to buy the Manchester United club for \$A1.622 million as an insurance policy against an OFT victory.

That deal, which now depends on approval by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, would ensure the prize offering of Man U on Sky screens after the expiry of current contracts in 2001 in any event.

The Premier League says it wants to spread the rights across a handful of broadcasters.

Such action would, therefore, render any decision by the Restrictive Practices Court effectively moot.

In addition, if BSkyB and the BBC lose, they are likely to appeal and prolong the case for several months.

Still, the case is at the very least expected to provide an intriguing argument on the handling and accessibility of a national treasure, and good and bad moments for those wondering how only 16 per cent of Premier League matches go to air live.

Ajax interest in Australia continues

DUTCH soccer champion Ajax Amsterdam announced last week that it had taken a 51 percent stake in Ajax Cape Town, a new club in South Africa's premier league next season.

The club has been formed by merging Seven Stars and Cape Town Spurs.

Seven Stars owner Rob Moore and John Comitis, who owned Cape Town Spurs, will hold the remaining 49 percent of Ajax Cape Town.

Ajax Amsterdam will invest more than \$A1.9 million in upgrading Cape Town Spurs' facilities and the new club will adopt Ajax's training methods.

Ajax said its investment would mainly be aimed at strengthening the new club's youth department.

Talented players will be offered the possibility of full-time or part-time trainee-ships in Amsterdam.

The Dutch club will have the right of first refusal on players.

And as the deal was announced Carlton officials confirmed that Ajax had dropped out of negotiations with the Melbourne NSL club over an ownership share.

Carlton general manager Lou Sticca was non-committal when asked when the sale to the proposed new consortium was likely to be concluded.

"Nothing has changed," he said.

"We're still just going about the day to day running of the club."

However, Sticca strongly denied speculation the club, which reached the grand final in its first season last year, would change its name to Melbourne City and join rugby league Melbourne Storm at Olympic Park.

"The name of the club and our home ground will not be changing," he said.

Despite its success of last season which has continued this year, Carlton has struggled to attract good crowds.

Crowds of only 4000 have been the norm at

home games for the past two seasons and the club is desperate to find ways to bolster its support.

But despite press reports to the contrary it seems that Ajax are still interested in securing a foothold in Australia's Ericsson Cup.

And the club currently under scrutiny is beleaguered Canberra Cosmos. "It is such a crazy idea," a leading NSL official told *Inside Soccer*.

"The Ericsson Cup has massive potential and is definitely going in the right direction."

"Canberra, on the other hand, is a club desperately needing a big injection of funds."

"Their position in the capital and the fact that it is a one-team city makes it even more of an attractive proposition."

"I can confirm that Ajax have approached Carlton, that that is no longer under discussion and that they have officially approached the Canberra Cosmos."

Canberra Cosmos are currently plumb last in the Ericsson Cup.

Aussie Ilic under fire at Charlton

CHARLTON'S Australian-raised goalkeeper Sasa Ilic has come under pressure, in Britain's soccer press after the south London club lurched to an eighth straight defeat.

"Sasa the saviour has suddenly become Ilic the idiot," said the Guardian last week, highlighting another glaring mistake from the Melbourne-raised keeper in a 3-1 Premier League loss to Southampton.

The Saints went ahead 2-1 after a shot from 22m by Patrick Collister - described by the Guardian as "speculative" at best - bobbed under the lanky keeper's arms.

"It comes in a growing suc-

cession," the paper said.

"Where once his agility was salvaging points, now his uncertainty in handling and judgment is shipping them."

"It is a case of out of the soup plate into the sieve."

Ilic kept nine straight clean sheets to help lift Charlton into the Premier League at the end of last season and in the process dislodged fellow Aussie Andy Petterson as the club's number one keeper.

Ilic's sparkling form earlier this season earned him his first international call up, for his parents' homeland Yugoslavia as he turned his back on Australia in a blaze of controversy.

But his recent form has drawn the wrong sort of headlines, including another error in a recent FA Cup loss to Blackburn, in which he conceded a goal in an empty net after coming upfield for a Charlton corner.

And a relegation to the 'stiffs' is the outcome of Ilic's recent poor form.

The 26-year-old was named in the reserves for a match against Oxford last week.

He said recently: "I've held up my hand to a couple of mistakes but I wouldn't be human if I didn't have the occasional error."

"I haven't become a bad player overnight."

SYDNEY 1999



The Fourth World Congress of Science and Football

Sydney
22-26m February 1999

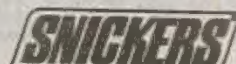
Proudly sponsored by



Keys to the city



SYDNEY



Further details:

Internet:

www.wcsf99.uts.edu.au

Email:

wcsf@hotelnetwork.com.au

Phone:

(02) 9411 4666

Facsimile:

(02) 9411 4243

Postal:

PO Box 236,
Roseville NSW 2069

Inside Soccer is produced weekly by DUNTROON PUBLISHING

Suites 4-5, 108 Railway Street, CORRIMAL, NSW 2518, AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: 02-4285-7480 FAX: 02-4285-7481

EMAIL: insidesoccer@hotmail.com

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: 12 noon Friday prior to publication.

PUBLISHER: G Campbell

EDITOR: Bruce Campbell

LAYOUT: Jo-Jo

ADMINISTRATION: Susan Campbell

MARKETING MANAGER: Cec Bucello (direct number 02 4324 5660)

SENIOR JOURNALISTS: Derek Royal

PHOTOGRAPHY: Andrew Dawson, Sports West, The Library, Agencies

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS: Stuart Bell, Melina Boursinos, George Bramis, Micky Brock, Bob Brooks, Alan Clark, Bryan Cokely, Andrew Davis, Fred Legget, Tony Moffitt, Joe Russo, John White plus AAP, Reuters, UPI and Agencies.

ALL MATERIAL appearing in *Inside Soccer* is copyright (unless indicated otherwise) and, unless by prior arrangement may not be reproduced in any form. Application to reprint any article should be made to Duntroon Publishing.

© Duntroon Publishing 1999



Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

HEY, WHAT A WEEK for Australian football take-overs, liquidity problems, great goals, sloppy goals, the 'Tillies whacking Italy, Australia in the first of a two game Olyroo series, the Sydney Challenge launched - just another day at the office down Corrimall way.

Who said Australian soccer is struggling. If this is struggle, then roll on the good times.

NEXT WEEK sees the start of *Inside Soccer's* State and regional League service. Watch out this is going to be a bumper coverage.

Already we have received many plaudits for our coverage of the Ericsson Cup and it won't stop there. A full coverage of the major State Leagues, supplementary coverage of the regional Leagues and extensive coverage of the junior game in Australia all add up to a major growth area for our paper.

And don't forget Women's Soccer. We are pleased to announce that *Inside Soccer* is going all the way to the USA with the Matildas.

We'll cover every kick, profile every player and dissect every match. All up that means that the paper will increase greatly in size starting next week with an extra 8 page section. But all this wouldn't be possible without the help of our advertisers so please mention *Inside Soccer* when you enquire

about their services.

It is also opportune for me to welcome on board Cec Bucello as our full time Marketing Manager and Robbie Wheatley with his regular column. Both are well known in the game, Cec as a former Marketing Manager at the ASF and Robbie as one of the ABC's regular commentators and, of course, as an outstanding footballer with both club and country.

Other changes are happening, mainly with the addition of a string of writers including many *Inside Soccer* favourites like Melina Boursinos and George Bramis. Our recent advertisement for writers met with staggering response and I have struggled to get back to a fraction of those who contacted me. It gives me great confidence in the future of Australian football and our role within the game.

But most of all I am delighted with the response from our readers. It seems that our particular mix of match report, player profile, news and FIFA stories has hit the mark. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to speak to me or our regular writers over the last few weeks and thanks also to YOU, your support has made us the best read soccer publication in Australia.

INSIDE SOCCER has been available for some time from coast to coast, making it the only weekly publication on widespread national distribution. But that doesn't mean that we can be bought in every newsagency. Sometimes all it takes is a request to a newsagent and he will stock it. That is why we publish our distributor's con-

tact every issue on top of our masthead.

But some don't believe that soccer papers sell and just won't stock them. Oh, well - I don't suppose you can win them all.

AND DESPITE what Bernd Stang and Nick Tana have been saying recently about not winning the league I suspect that they will be right up there at the top when it counts come the end of April.

I am going to tip a top two from South Melbourne, Perth Glory, Sydney Olympic and Marconi. If I was forced to, I'd have a couple of bob on the Glory. And wouldn't every fan in the country like to see a Perth based Grand Final.

There would be some atmosphere at that. And our league is supposed to be in the doldrums.

Incidentally, the only ones who think so are WITHIN our own sport. Everybody else is peeing their pants (and panties - I don't want to be accused of being sexist) at soccer's boom times. But it does make you wonder what the game would be like if our clubs could reverse that player drain.

AT ONE STAGE I used to be a closet Leeds United fan. I remember the season they were promoted to the old English First Division and came within a whisker of winning it first time.

I also remember some of their greats: Eddie Gray, Peter Lorimer, Alan 'Sniffer' Clarke, Billy Bremner - what a club.

When I worked for the Canberra Cosmos I even used the story about them changing to all white to convince the then chairman Paul Murphy to adopt a new all-red and all-white strip. New sponsors Novell wanted their colours on the strips so I came up with the idea of the two greatest teams in recent English football; all white Leeds United (1960s) and all red Liverpool (1980s).

The Novell colour of red was achieved by reversing red and white and keeping the league regulations happy at the same time. The Leeds story came about when they were in Division 2 and new manager Don Revie wanted them to actually win a game or two. At that time Real Madrid were the greatest side in the world and they played in all white so he reasoned if you want to be the best then you have to look the best. It didn't quite work out with the Cosmos, maybe it was those darned stars in the design.

But the point of all this is that after the Jamie McMasters incident I'm not a Leeds fan at all now. In fact, I think they have behaved quite reprehensibly.

Sure, in the professional world club does come before country because that is where you earn your wage - but who the hell are Leeds to tell a player which country to play for. Seems that Don Revie forgot one thing; being classy with classy people in control is one thing, but being REAL class is quite another.

Soccer Groupies

THANK you for providing a decent alternative to the other sources of soccer info I have been able to access for the past few years.

As the producer/presenter of a weekly *footy show* (Thursday nights at 9.30pm on Radio 2NBC FM 90.1) - I have found it frustrating indeed to have so little about soccer in the general media - half the time you can't use it because of the negative slant put on so many articles.

Your major competitor has turned into a complete rag under the new editor, who by the way, told me last Friday night at the Northern Spirit game that I..." should stick to magazines like the *Bulletin* and *Time* as I'm obviously not part of the demographic he wishes to attract..." (I got the impression that is 'blokes' and groupie chicks.

I am so pleased to have a soccer paper that entirely focuses on the game here in Australia - how many more column centimetres will the oz media devote to Europe's competition??

Keep up the terrific work and let me know if I can help promote any of your good work eg. you may wish to preview special features or profiles.

Helen Meyer
Newcastle NSW
(Thanks for the nice words. However, we have set far higher standards for *Inside Soccer* than the current yardstick of a very poor soccer media. In that we need feedback and support from everybody out there - this is YOUR paper. - Ed)

Media Coverage

THE recently completed Ashes cricket series is a classic example of how the mainstream sports media, acting in unison, can keep interest alive in the deadest of dead dogs.

By any yardstick the current English cricket team is one of the worst ever.

If not for the weather in the First Test and the amazing and unconvincing victory in the Fourth Test they would have been thrashed 5-0.

Despite this absurdly one-side con-

Your WRITE

YOU CAN air your view on any subject relating to soccer by replying to *Inside Soccer* at
Fax: (02) 4285 7481
Email: insidesoccer@hotmail.com
You must include a day time telephone number for verification purposes, if necessary, and letters should be kept under 400 words.
All correspondence must include your name and address - although we will print letters under nom-de-plumes.
Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

test the media was able to generate great interest in the series, especially the latter two Tests.

Interestingly, nearly all the media outlets and personalities who were instrumental in the campaign are the same group who consistently ignore soccer whenever possible excepting when it is something that will reflect badly on the game.

Recently many Oz soccer fans have been expressing their dissatisfaction with media coverage especially on TV. The Ashes cricket series coverage is a message for all soccer fans in Australia - need I say more.

R Melor
Bondi, NSW

Grandstand George

THE Australian Cheese Boated has Sir Les Patterson as its 'ambassador' to the Court of St James and now SA will have its very own European Soccer ambassador in George Negus soon to be based in Italy.

When you think of it, who could be more suitable than Negus?

It was not that long ago George offered to help FIFA run World football in his spare time.

When David Hill presided over SA both friend and foe took him seriously.

With George Negus I have yet to hear of one official involved with soccer who takes him seriously on soccer matters.

I also cannot recollect one initiative taken by George Negus during his time as SA commissioner which has advanced the game here in Australia.

Undoubtedly he is world class at grandstanding, self promotion and 'motherhood' statements and empty, hollow rhetoric.

If I've missed something please somebody correct me. No doubt George's special statues will be invaluable in gaining new contacts and connections amongst the high and mighty.

I just wonder who will be the main bene-

ficiary.

R Melor
Bondi NSW

(It is a shame that George didn't achieve more for the game. I think that the saddest aspect is that the much vaunted Soccer Summit - which cost a few bob - was little more than a promo to fool the people. That the then SA commissioners had no intention of ever printing the findings, as promised, is an indictment of the contempt with which they viewed a great deal of good people within the game. - Ed).

TV Rights

IN an update regarding TV rights for the 2002 World Cup Australia/NZ Toyota has just announced a record sales year for Australia. One of the critical factors in the success was the massive advertising campaign coinciding with France 98.

Toyota was one of SBS's anchor sponsors during the France 98 coverage and a very satisfied one at that.

Advertisers are now more than ever convinced of the effectiveness of the World Cup as a selling medium on TV even in Australia with or without the Socceroos.

The key factor is the quality and scale of the coverage and this is where SBS leaves the commercial networks for dead.

The battle for Oz TV

rights for 2002/06 World Cups is a story in itself.

R Melor
Bondi NSW

(I can't help but reflect on the '98 SBS coverage which I personally rated as a much poorer relation of previous tournaments. I am an admirer of the soccer specialist channel but will always question what Tracey Holmes really did for the World Cup presentation. Sure, she is a good journalist but at World Cup level you have to be a soccer specialist. - Ed).

Why No Wolves?

FOR a publication based in Corrimall you give surprisingly small coverage of the Wollongong Wolves.

I would like to see it expanded with profiles on players.

Cheryl Christo
Primbey NSW

(I am not sure that the Wolves share your enthusiasm. I thought the reason that they stopped sending press releases was because they didn't like some of the coverage they were getting! And some people have commented that there is too much Wollongong - you just can't win. But seriously, *Inside Soccer* is a NATIONAL paper. Wollongong coverage will be increased - as well as every other club. - Ed).

WANTED COACH TOLLAND SOCCER CLUB INC. WAGGA WAGGA, NSW

Tolland Soccer Club are seeking expressions of interest for the position of coach for the 1999 season.

Tolland Soccer Club is one of the largest soccer clubs in the Wagga Wagga & District Amateur Soccer Association which includes teams from throughout the Riverina.

Tolland Soccer Club's 1st Grade and Reserve Grade teams have been Wagga Wagga & District Amateur Soccer Association Grand Finalists consistently over the years and have also over a number of years competed in the Waratah Cup competition having made it through to the 4th round in 1997.

Applications or enquiries are to be directed to
Mr Kerry Pascoe:
Tel: (02) 6926 5225
Fax: (02) 6926 1892



THANK YOU ALL for your feedback to my first column in last week's issue of *Inside Soccer*. It was good to see all of the fans catching up with the latest news at North Sydney Oval last week as part of *Inside Soccer's* promo.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC remain undefeated at Belmore at the half way mark of the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup season with 6 wins and 1 draw, the latest that pulsating 2-1 victory over Adelaide City.

Four solid performers have appeared in every fixture for Olympic; Scott Thomas, Peter Tsekenis, Jason Culina and Pablo Cardozo who picked up goal number 11 of the campaign.

OLYMPIC'S MATCH DAY programme, Blues News, contains an interesting feature, "Down Memory Lane", which looks back at the NSL turning the clock back to 1983. From that season 50% of member clubs in the national league have collapsed or been replaced.

St George, Sydney City, Preston Make-donia, Heidelberg, APIA Leichhardt, Footscray, Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions don't play in the top league.

SPARE A THOUGHT for soccer managers? Maybe not.

Former English club boss David Pleat acknowledge the vagaries of his profession.

"Managers suffer agonies, standing by the dugout and making all kinds of signals, yelling advice and encouragement. But it makes no difference. We all know inside that once the whistle blows there is nothing we can do. Yet we still urge them to run faster, jump higher, kick harder."

Stallions supreme Fran Farina was not so animated during last Friday night's heavy loss to the Spirit. Few at the ground felt

that an on-field Farina would have been out of place for an inept Marconi.

ONE THING that was going off on the night at North Sydney Oval were the fireworks. Expensive? Very much so according to Spirit directors.

Thankfully for the technicians Spirit stopped at four goals. The stocks at that stage were running decidedly low.

FOR THE second week running Olyroo hopeful striker Peter Buljan opened the scoring for Canberra Cosmos.

Last week (Round 14) he netted against current champions South Melbourne only

to finish with a 3-1 deficit.

Away to Gippsland in Round 15, he repeated the dose. A late equaliser stole victory from the Cosmos but he did earn the side a virgin point after nearly four

months.

That's 14 games. 1,260 minutes. For one point.

One hopes that the players negotiated a hefty 'draw' bonus in current contracts.



Peter Buljan: the Olyroo hopeful earned his side its first point this season with a goal at Gippsland

WHEATLEY'S WORLD



- * Soccer Balls
- * Shinguards
- * Accessories
- * Goalkeeping Gear

***is ready to kick off its 10th
consecutive year on the
Australian Soccer Scene***

The Blatter Bomb: Rupert says its great but what about the clubs

Senior UEFA officials today rejected FIFA president Sepp Blatter's wish to hold soccer's World Cup every two years.

Endorsing UEFA president Lennart Johansson's already-stated personal opposition to the plan, UEFA said it was rejecting Blatter's proposal on sporting, medical and commercial grounds.

In a stinging statement issued after a meeting of the five-member presidential board, UEFA said: "The Presidential Board not only objected to the idea but also condemned the way the project was presented, without prior consultation with any of the relevant bodies."

"The Board is of the opinion that the project would produce negative consequences in

sporting, medical and commercial contexts and have a damaging effect on domestic competitions."

The Board also questioned Blatter's motives.

"The members of the Presidential Board noted with regret signs that the project could be a matter of personal prestige," it said in the statement.

Blatter first made public his wish to introduce a biennial World Cup in an interview with a Swiss newspaper at the beginning of the year.

But speaking from Singapore media tycoon Rupert Murdoch on has backed the controversial proposal by FIFA president Sepp Blatter to hold the World Cup every two years and added that it could be disputed by clubs.

"My first reaction to that is it's a very good idea," Murdoch told a forum on media in the 21st century.

"I think the World Cup is a great international event and there's no reason why it shouldn't be every second year."

"If we don't have a World Cup between countries every two years, maybe it will be right to have in between the quadrennial World Cup a World Cup of clubs."

"Certainly soccer is so strong and so popular in so many parts of the world that we should see major international competition more than every four years."

Blatter has played down criticism of his idea.

The global football supremo said he did not want to see World

Cup overkill - or see the tournament pose a threat to other events such as the European Championship.

And he insisted he was not looking to stir up a hornets' nest.

"People never realise the importance of football."

"It is so popular."

"And with my announcement I have provoked a discussion - it's not just an idea plucked out of the blue."

"It's a good idea - now we have to see if it is feasible."

"It will only become rational if the international calendar can be harmonised."

"That will start from January 15 at FIFA headquarters ... when the secretaries general of the different confederations come together."

Breakers sale still shrouded in secrecy

By John White

LAST week's headline front page story about the sale of the Newcastle Breakers, which was later picked up by newspapers in Sydney and Newcastle has taken another twist with the revelation that the bidding consortium has already made a \$10,000 down payment on the team.

Newcastle Breakers board members are still adamant that they do not know the identity of the bidders - despite the fact that they have already banked the money.

The total amount of the takeover bid is said to be under half a million dollars with rumours linking John Hewson, the president of embattled Sydney United, with the move.

"The new owners are then set to invest up to \$800,000 a season to build a competitive outfit," reported the Newcastle Herald.

"The identity of the consortium remains a secret but - speculation has linked the group with

Sydney club Hakoah, who became Sydney City in the National Soccer League."

The Hunter Valley newspaper has also linked former Socceroo icon Ray Baartz with the new consortium.

Baartz was pictured on the front page of last week's *Inside Soccer* in the article by Tony Moffitt.

"Baartz revealed he was approached to play a key role in the new consortium to give the new look Breakers a 'Newcastle face'," continued the Herald article.

"The \$10,000 down payment gives the consortium first option on the purchase of the team until February 13, when the balance is due."

"Breakers chairman Bill Collins ... distanced himself from the figures but confirmed the \$10,000 down payment."

"I'm not prepared to say what it (price) is at this stage."

"The only payment was an option payment and if

they change their mind and don't buy it then we keep the \$10,000 and they go off wherever they go."

Collins was anxious last week that the story be down played in case it became an obstacle in the final deal.

Ray Baartz is recognised as one of Australia's greatest ever players.

His international career was cut short in the infamous Karate Chop match against Uruguay shortly before the 1974 World Cup.

Baartz has confirmed that he was asked to join the consortium but has refused both approaches.

The former Hakoah and Newcastle KB United player has also indicated that the identity of a consortium is a mystery.

The deal is expected to unfold within the next few weeks but as Bill Collins told *Inside Soccer* in a prior interview he does not see any likelihood of Newcastle folding even if the proposed take over does not go ahead.

LEISURE & TOURISM LINK

Operator Assisted Phone Enquiry service providing information on businesses in the Entertainment, Accommodation, Leisure & Tourism industries.
Information supplied to callers free of charge.

Sydney (02) 9985 1069

Central Coast (02) 4393 5744

Newcastle/Hunter (02) 4973 2955

where to go, what to do - when you want to know

Phone Now!

Hours of Operation

Tue, Wed, Sun (10am to 8pm)

Thur, Fri, Sat (10am to midnight)

Business enquiries (low cost) welcome

WEB SITE: www.ltl.com.au

Talking Soccer with Carlton S.C.'s SEAN DOUGLAS



WITH Soccer Australia announcing that Auckland is to be admitted to the Ericsson Cup next season, debate has been running hot on whether this is a "good thing" or not.

The Oz Soccer mailing list, an email list that dissects Australian soccer and boasts people from all areas of the game, including players, administrators and fans, has a very divided opinion on the matter.

People against the move have put forward arguments that ask why "we" should help our old enemies to develop their game - after all, haven't they beaten us enough times at crucial stages already!

People for the move, including myself, counter by saying that a strong New Zealand will give Oceania more credibility on the world stage and eventually may lead to a direct entry berth into the World Cup.

One of the many reasons put forward for the Socceroos exit

from the World Cup was the lack of quality opposition leading up to that fateful night at the MCG.

Wouldn't a strong New Zealand fix this problem?

And what if we did miss out on qualification every 2nd time, and the Kiwis made it?

So what, qualifying every eight years is surely better than not qualifying since 1974.

What about the cost to existing clubs you ask?

Well Soccer Australia is actually on the ball for this one, charging the Kiwi's over \$1 million dollars in entry fees.

This money will be used to ensure that existing clubs will not bear the extra cost of flying to Auckland once a season.

And as someone on

the Oz Soccer mailing

list stated: "Soccer Australia has managed to do what the Socceroo players couldn't do, and get their hands on the prize money from the Confederation Cup qualifiers that the Kiwi's so rudely stole!"

What do the players think?

I'm sure the players will enjoy the flight and the chance to do some duty free shopping for family and friends, if nothing else!

Hopefully next week I'll have an interview with one of the people behind the Auckland Kings bid, and we can all get an insight into how it's all going to work, so see you then.

Kelic joins century club

Melbourne Knights striker Ivan Kelic has become the latest member of the NSL Century Club - players who have scored one hundred or more national league goals. His goal against Perth Glory in the Round 14 draw saw him become only the tenth player since 1977 to achieve the feat.

The Ante Juric story Football, football - and more football

By Andrew Davis

Ante Juric's path down the football road has certainly been diverse.

He has played his football in Australia and overseas.

Juric was born in Canberra and during his development as a player in the area he played against some greatly talented people.

For Canberra, at least in football terms, it is not quite the back water that the results of their NSL team might currently reflect.

"There have been some great players out of the Canberra region," says the Sydney Olympic star.

"Of course everyone knows Ned Zelic but there has also been players like Joe Simunic, Ivan Zelic, Zeljko Susa, George Kulscar, Andy Bernal and Michael Musitano to name but a few.

"Canberra should be in the NSL because the area has a heap of potential.

"The current young players need experienced hands to help and they

need to build up a team spirit.

"Certainly Tom Sermanni will help there."

Ante Juric started his career as a young boy in the ranks of the Kambah United Under Six team.

He represented them right through to the under 14s and played the whole time as a striker.

He then moved to Canberra Metros and made his debut in the state super league when he was 17 as a sweeper.

"Back then it was a great league top lay in," he says.

"We were always around the top four made lots of finals, although we were not victorious in them.

"It was certainly not a step down and I went straight from there into representative honours.

"I played in all the ACT representative teams from under 14s upwards.

"Then in year 12 I made the AIS and that made me a much better player."

Juric played alongside the likes of Milicic, Moric, Lozanovski and Muscat at the Institute.

"The AIS changed my view on football," he says.

"It cleared my mind as to what I wanted to do.

"It made the game more fun and all I wanted to do was play more and more.

"Ron Smith ran through a lot of the positional play with us.

"At the time the best part of my game was attacking from the back.

"When I feel free I do my best, and I was free back then.

"Post AIS I continued to step upwards in my career.

"I went into camps for the World Youth Cup and many of the boys there were part of the AIS structure."

As for some of the criticism that the AIS continually attracts Juric has his own thoughts.

"The Institute improved me tremendously both physically and mentally," he says.

"It was certainly good to win all the time but you were trained to be strong enough to overcome the inevitable losses and hurdles put in your way.

"The evidence can be seen by the progress of all the boys throughout the world.

"It is a great thing to be a part of."

From the AIS Ante Juric was a major part in the World Youth Cup played in Australia.

"It was the best experience I have had so far in

my career," he says.

"In Australia we were on the front and back covers of all the papers and everybody knew you.

"We were treated like kings for two weeks.

"On the field I played consistently throughout and played all the games.

"We had been nervous before the Brazil game and as sweeper I saw a lot of great players up against us coming through.

"We had beaten them once and were confident we could do it again but it was not to be.

"By the time the England game came about we were less nervous but still lost out.

"They had some great players like Unsworth, Bart-Williams, Joachim, Thompson and Watson.

"As for us some said we were not a great side when they looked through the team, but whilst we may have lacked the big name stars like Viduka, Bosnich etc.

as a team we were inseparable and there was a great spirit and together we made a great side."

After the WYC Ante Juric moved away from Canberra for the first time, this time to Melbourne and the Knights.

"Now the expectations were much higher for me," he recalls, "but I missed the pre season, had a break and in came a new game.

"I regret taking time off looking back but I did and missed some games and the team kept win-

Pro FILE

ANTE JURIC

Favourite Position: Sweeper, Libero
Injuries in career: ligament damage as a youngster, stress fracture, niggling foot injuries

Most respected opponent: Everyone
Best year: My year at AIS, debut for state league and Australia Youth team.

Favourite Coach: Ron Smith and Tom Sermanni

Favourite Player as a youngster: Maradona

The team you support OS: Liverpool FC

ning so I could not get into the first team.

"Then I went away to an Olyroo camp picked up a stress fracture and was out for three months.

"It was sad as apart from the football I really enjoyed Melbourne and having a lot of friends there really helped me.

"Eventually I left the Knights and played in the Victorian Super League with Faulkner under Branko Culina."

Ante Juric was out of the NSL only briefly though and got a chance

when Olympic came asking for him.

"When I found out Sydney Olympic were interested I took it as a good chance for a fresh start," he says.

"I have quite a few relatives in Sydney and thought I could fit in quite well.

"As it happened I did as I played every game that season (1994/95) for the club."

Then Ante fulfilled a desire most quality players have, to play overseas.

He went to Portugal and played for second division Castelo Branco.

"It was a good experience being a full time player in Europe," he says.

"The training was a lot tougher, being more like games themselves.

"It was even harder as an Aussie back then.

"People thought you were from over here so you must be bad - so you really had to prove yourself much more than most. (A feeling also expressed by Craig Johnston when he first went to Middlesbrough.)

"Where I stayed it was a country town and the whole culture was so different to what I was used to, certainly the whole country had a poorer standard of living.

"I found the language difficult to grasp as well but it all toughened me up as a person.

"On the park they

played me as a stopper as they thought of me as a hard man, but it helped my game to improve in a more physical sense.

"I wanted to leave Portugal and signed a contract in Slovakia but my club would not release me, then there was the chance to move to Benfica in Portugal but I picked up an injury so did not go there either.

"I had a clause where I could return to Australia and in the end that is what I did.

"I was a family person and missed them.

"When I was playing I thought I was doing well and yet Castelo Branco did not play me all the time.

"I had had enough and came home just in time for the International Travellers series."

In that series Juric scored the winning goal in Brisbane.

Then he returned to Canberra and actually played for the Cosmos under Mick Lyons for eight games.

Unlike most Canberra players his win loss record was alright his eight games including victories over South Melbourne, Perth Glory and a draw with the Melbourne Knights (which must have been one of the sweetest points of all for Juric.)

Coach Geoff Harcombe of Sydney Olympic called Ante up during the off season and they soon agreed terms.

For Ante Juric it all seemed to fall into place for the first time in a while.

"I wanted to start University in Sydney (he is studying health sciences at the Australian Catholic University) and I also wanted to come back to Sydney," he says.

"It was a good return for me but soon the Olympic experience turned sour for many of the side and many inside the club.

"We did not know where we were going from one week to the



next with talk of take over bids and so forth.

"That showed on the field.

"There were players in dispute and all that but it was not until the takeover went through that things settled down.

"John Sentos changed things a bit and we showed we had the quality on the park.

"It was a funny season for we had the potential to win the league but off the park dramas were too distracting.

"Personally I thought I was consistent once more although I enjoyed myself much more as a sweeper in the last six games of the season.

"I see myself at my best as an attacking libero but I am always willing to fit into the team's plan as a whole.

"I signed another two year contract for this season and next and was happy with things in pre-season.

"I was not happy at the beginning of this season

though when I was not in the starting lineup.

"I thought I was playing well and was very disappointed when I was dropped.

"Eventually injuries to others helped me back into the team and I hope I have now cemented my spot in the first team, but you can never be certain of these things and I have to make sure I am always on top of my game.

"I am quite happy where I am at now.

"I believe the team we have right now is good enough to win the league.

"As for overseas ambitions, sure I have thought about it but at my age it is no longer the be all and end all.

"If I go it will have to be this year though.

"My manager Mark Piletto will help me along the way and I always dream of playing in Spain, although Germany would not be too bad either.

"As for youngsters looking to make it in the

game over here you need to have confidence in yourself, and always express yourself on the park.

"Train hard and just go out and do it."

Ante Juric's path in football may have been varied but he has always been a professional player.

Off the park he remains just as professional.

He has overcome a few hurdles along the way (like contractual and injury problems both in Melbourne and overseas), his current flatmate (name withheld), and being played out of position, but he has never complained in public, rather buckled down to do the job asked.

For him it is much more than a job though, it is a fun game and he continues to desire the main thing he did as a youngster - to play more and more games.

SOCCKER RADIO

Radio 2000 fm 98.5

Wollongong, Sydney, Newcastle and the Blue Mountains.

Sundays

10pm - 11pm

covering all the NSL games

plus review of

European competition

from the night before.



SOUTHERN DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION Inc.

INVITES YOU TO PLAY SOCCER IN YOUR LOCAL AREA



A.C. UNITED Powhaton Reserve GREEN FIELD PARK Mick Sztajniger 0418 964 776	AUSTRAL SPORTS Scott Park AUSTRAL Peter Wiskich 9606 5222	BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES Tarlington Reserve BONNYRIGG Jack Cerjanic 9823 7714	BOSSLEY SPORTS Terone Park BOSSLEY PARK Mark Brett 9822 1706	BRINGELLY SPORTS Bringelly Park BRINGELLY Sheree Walters 0247 748 671	BUSBY SPORTS Whitlam Park No 2 HECKENBERG Julie Compton 9720 9589	CANLEY HEIGHTS RSL King Park WAKELEY Gary Eidintas 9823 6936
CHIPPING NORTON South Park CHIPPING NORTON Ross Anderson 9601 4994	COLO-COLO Ireland Bridge Reserve WARWICK FARM Hector Salgado 9754 2532	FAIRFIELD BULLS Nineveh Complex EDENSOR PARK Emmanuel Kanna 9609 7205	FAIRFIELD CITY Knight Park YENNORA Wilson Gomez 9723 4907	FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS Prospect View park FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS Wayne Stons 9724 3874	FAIRFIELD PATS Brenan Park SMITHFIELD Roasna Lentini 9612 2791	FAIRFIELD WEST Endeavour Reserve FAIRFIELD WEST Peter Daniel 9728 2321
FREEMAN SPORTS Stockdale Reserve ABBOTSBURY Roy Paragalli 9829 2316	HINCHINBROOK JUNIORS Stanwell Park ASHCROFT William Aparicio 9607 9101	SOUTHERN DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION Inc. OFFICE AT CLUB MARCONI, MARCONI PLAZA, BOSSLEY PARK PO Box 3119, Liverpool NSW 2170 Ph: 9826 8400 Fax 9823 7502 President: Larry Grant Ph 9826 9137 Mob 0419 737 324 Secretary: Ron Hughes Ph 9606 9284 Mob 0417 762 237			HORSLEY PARK UNITED Horsley Park Oval HORSLEY PARK Julie Gargaro 9823 2400	HOTSPURS SPORTS Smithfield Park SMITHFIELD David Hayes 904 1461
KEMPS CREEK UNITED Bill Anderson Reserve KEMPS CREEK Teresa Mammone 9606 0050	LANSVALE UNITED Hartley's Oval LANSVALE Nick Halls 9728 1141	LIVERPOOL CITY ROBINS Paciullo Oval LIVERPOOL Steve Ingram 9826 0943	LIVERPOOL OLYMPIC Hoxton Park Reserve HOXTON PARK George Aliferis 0418 449 829	LIVERPOOL RANGERS Ireland Park LIVERPOOL Graham Ferns 9607 3211	LIVERPOOL WARRIORS Blamfield Park ASHCROFT Sam Carter 9618 3469	MOOREBANK SPORTS Hammondville Oval HAMMONDVILLE Phil Sampson 9731 1153
MT PRITCHARD JUNIORS Joe Broad Reserve MT PRITCHARD Marilyn Price 9711 4509	PRAIRIEWOOD UNITED Calabria Sports Ground PRAIRIEWOOD Domenic Strati 0412 001 214	SMITHFIELD RSL Brenan Park SMITHFIELD Ron Sibritt 9609 3853	REFEREE'S BRANCH Classes commencing 3 February 1999 Wes White 9825 9672	SYDNEY UNITED JUNIORS Allambie Reserve EDENSOR PARK Tom Jukic 0411 622 272	WETHERILL PARK Emerson St Reserve WETHERILL PARK Mario Micallef 9624 7460	WHITE CITY Chisholm Park CABRAMATTA WEST Stan Jankovic 9725 3497

SIX SUPER REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE TO AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER SOCCER PUBLICATION:

1. It's cheaper
2. To your door service - no hassles about sell-outs
3. Great savings on our reader offers
4. You will receive an annual surprise 'freebie'
5. You'll never miss a beat, keeping up to date with the stories that the others don't carry
6. Contribute to our editor's retirement fund!

Inside Soccer

Is Australia's weekly national publication with a major remit to cover the Australian domestic game and relative issues.

It is the only weekly Australian publication which has a major national coast to coast distribution.

It is also Australia's top selling soccer publication.

Our writers are drawn from the ranks of the leading professional journalists as well as enthusiastic amateurs and reader's opinion and letters are keenly sought.

strongly

52 ISSUES SUBSCRIPTION \$125

26 ISSUES SUBSCRIPTION \$70

10 ISSUES SUBSCRIPTION \$36

Payment should be sent to:
 Duntroon Publishing
 Suites 4/5,
 108 Railway Street
 Corrimal
 NSW 2518

Please make cheques payable to Duntroon Publishing

Name

Address

..... P/code

Subscription @ 52 issues ☐ 26 issues ☐ 10 issues ☐

inside
SOCCER

Sydney United: the tragedy, the story – and the truth

Embattled national soccer league club Sydney United last week plunged further into crisis, appointing an administrator to help salvage its ailing finances.

A special meeting of the club's disgruntled members decided to press ahead with fund-raising attempts to keep the club alive, including the sale of land it owns in Werriington, in western Sydney.

The move to appoint an administrator comes after mounting debts which have left many of the club's players unpaid for at least a fortnight.

"The players were told before training last Monday," said one player who asked not to be named.

"They were in shock

and they didn't know what to say or what to do because they don't know exactly the full story.

"We've got training tomorrow night, we'll find out what is going on and what we can do."

The administrator, Daniel Cvetanovic, said the appointment was made on January 10 to help the club trade its way out of trouble.

Former Soccer Australia chairman David Hill threatened to expel United from the competition at the end of the 1996-97 season after an incident involving its supporters at a finals match.



Former United chairman Ivan Simic: he battled hard to ensure the club's survival – including moving his team to Parramatta Stadium where there was a vision of 10,000+ average crowds

Last year, United were forced by SA to play their home matches at Parramatta Stadium, much to the disapproval of fans.

Left with hefty ground rental costs and lost catering income, the club's ongoing financial difficulties and cash flow situation worsened leading to this week's decision by the board.

And in an expected sequel to the news of United's financial plight Australia's Croatian community has pledged to throw its support behind the club.

Soccer Australia has also come to the party

by giving a one-off \$25,000 loan to ensure that the club's Round 15 fixture could be completed.

Had that not happened then every one of the previous games would have had to be expunged from the record.

Now, and with the first half complete, Sydney United will have to be able to provide Soccer Australia that it will complete the remaining fifteen rounds, the second half of the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup.

The club's real debt figure is said to be about \$1.3million.

"Basically, we have a week-to-week sce-

nario," SA CEO David Woolley said.

"We will re-assess the situation next Tuesday (today), but in the meantime Sydney United will fulfil their fixture in Adelaide.

"After that, it is really in the hands of the club and its supporters.

"They need to generate the money themselves."

Ironically coach David Mitchell has built together a team on a shoestring budget which has all the potential required to mount a serious Top Six challenge.

The loyalty shown by the United players to their coach has been phenomenal.

To season ago the club was in a similar situation and on the eve of their Grand Final appearance against Brisbane the team went on strike.

Amazingly the story remained out of the headlines but subsequently a subdued Sydney United lost out in the Grand Final at Suncorp Stadium.

Mitchell has emerged as a coach of outstanding ability who will be in big demand should United fold.

David Hill and the collapse of Sydney United

An exclusive by Bruce Campbell

MUCH HAS BEEN said of David Hill's role in the so-called slide of Sydney United towards financial ruin.

Over the last week or so a lot of words have been spoken, many have been written and, while emotion is certainly running high, a lot of it has been complete rubbish.

Undoubtedly David Hill saw the club in the end as a thorn in his side, something to be brushed aside as he swept forward with his new vision for soccer in Australia; a vision in which clubs opened themselves up to a multi cultural audience based on traditional Anglo-Australian values.

Hill, however, wasn't alone in his thoughts.

The Sydney United board of 1996/97 shared his ideas of massive crowds as well.

take control of the social club had been thwarted and United's own board faced up to the truth that every cent it ploughed in to the soccer stadium was lost money.

The move to Parramatta Stadium, backed by David Hill, was a solve-all solution.

If the move worked out then Simic revealed that his club planned to make the move semi-permanent.

Ivan Simic smiled at my suggestion that he was putting pressure on the social club with this side step.

After all, no soccer no thousands of kids at the disco after the game and no hundreds of patrons for the club.

Simic didn't confirm this – but then he didn't deny it either.

But of course, Ivan Simic was correct.

The traditional Sydney United support base was dissipating rapidly as the club didn't have a rosy present or future.

How do I know? Well, unlike a lot of the others who are spouting forth verbal tripe – it was simply because I was there.

And to get the record straight I have never been in favour of what some people saw as David Hill's "ethnic cleaning".

I respect the traditions that the game in Australia has been brought up on and I respect the work and energies of clubs like Marconi, United, South Melbourne and Adelaide City.

There are, and have been, many others too. But these are the successful ones.

Towards the end of 1996 the then Sydney United chairman, Ivan Simic, asked me what was my reaction to the club playing select home games at Parramatta Stadium.

It seemed that, despite the brilliant team that they then had and their best crowd average for some seasons, they were struggling.

Simic and his board knew that they had to attract crowds above 6,000 to survive and to achieve what they wanted they would have to draw 10,000+.

Parramatta Stadium was seen as the answer.

My initial reaction was that the move would be excellent – if the club could galvanise its own supporters. After all, there was no point in gaining new fans at the expense of the old, people who in many cases had supported the club passionately for twenty, thirty or forty years.

And despite the fact that the new grandstand at Edensor Park had only been recently completed the reality was that it was a white elephant.

Sydney United S.C. did not own the ground that it played on, that was owned by the neighbouring social club.

Attempts by the soccer board to

A succession of big transfers helped stem the almost inevitable tide as the football side, buckled by massive player wages, lost thousands each week.

But even with the money brought in by the transfer of Ned Zelic, Zeljko Kalac (three times), Ante Milicic, David Zdrilic, Ante Moric and others, coming to well in excess of a cool \$3million, the club was going under.

Soccer Australia chipped in with the first game at Parramatta Stadium giving United a healthy advertising budget of about \$8,000 and the club pulled an excellent crowd of about 10,000 for a cracker of a game against Brisbane Strikers.

Unfortunately two things prevented the move becoming permanent.

The first was the instant reaction of the United supporters, fired up by the Sydney-Croatian press.

But the second was the real reason – the baseball diamond couldn't be shifted to allow the club to play the day following the Sydney ABL side's home fixture.

But it could for the following season and talks were held with that as a target.

Claims that David Hill forced the club to move are totally untrue.

That he did so AFTER they had already made the switch are correct. Maybe he was holding them to a bargain that they had made in camera.

I wasn't aware of that, but I was aware of the earlier dealings – simply because I was the club's publisher for the three year period in which it all happened.

Ivan Simic was, and still is a shrewd and charismatic man. He knew the facts of life, as unpalatable as they may have been to his community.

In the end he put thousands of hours and dollars into the club in an attempt to move it into at least the twentieth century before it was too late.

In this instance David Hill was a just bit player whose unfortunate relish for a public stoush has cast him as the guilty party.

Borghetto Back

ANDREW Borghetto, the Newcastle striker who broke his leg in the opening round of the season, is back in training this week after being given a doctor's all-clear.

"I've been doing a lot of work, intense massage and other stuff like kick-boxing," said the player who at one stage looked likely to miss the entire season.

The Adelaide-raised player will be a bonus to Lee Sterrey's side which is now shaping up as the unexpected package of the season.

A sequence of excellent results including an away win at Wollongong and an away draw at glamour club Northern Spirit has raised their stocks but the Breakers still require some weight in their front line.

One of the finds of the season has also been pint-sized striker John Buonavoglia and he will likely pair up with Borghetto once he returns to fitness.

Karembeu receives Oceania award

New Caledonia midfielder Christian Karembu has crowned a remarkable soccer season with his second Oceania Player of the Year title.

Karembu, who plays for Real Madrid in Spain, was in the starting line-up for France in the 3-0 win over Brazil in the 1998 World Cup final in Paris.

He gained a total of 86 votes to win clearly from the 1987 Oceania champion Mark Bosnich (Australia) with 66 votes, followed by Harry Kewell (Australia) 53 and Mark Schwarzer

(Australia) 32.

Karembu, who was third last year behind Bosnich and Australian Stan Lazaridis, previously won the Oceania title in 1995.

He first came to the attention of selectors when he was transferred from New Caledonia to the French club Nantes and had a term in Italy's Serie A before going to Spain.

Bosnich has again been impressive in goals for the English Premier League front runner Aston Villa although his season has been upset by

a shoulder injury.

Kewell is a relative newcomer in the voting, making his first appearance last year when he received 18 votes and in his time with English club Leeds has stamped himself as a goal scorer with potential.

Goalkeeper Schwarzer has jumped from nowhere into fourth place in his first appearance in the voting.

The tall Australian, after a short period in Europe, was signed by another English premier League club Middlesbrough who have been so impressed by his skills that they have signed him for a further term.

Schwarzer is one of four Australian goalkeepers in the Premier League and is rivalling Bosnich for attention.

And Dutch legend Johan Cruyff was named European Footballer of the Century.

The former Ajax striker beat Germany's Franz Beckenbauer and Spain's Alfredo di Stefano into second and third places respectively in a vote by journalists and experts,

organised by the International Federation for Football History and Statistics (IFFHS).

Cruyff won 753 votes compared to 709 for Beckenbauer and 708 for the Argentine-born Di Stefano at the annual gala of the Germany based IFFHS.

Brazilian Pele naturally won the South American Footballer of the Year award and AC Milan's Liberian striker George Weah received the prize for Africa.

South Korean Bum-Kun Cha, New Zealand's Wynton Rufer and Mexican Hugo Sanchez came in front for Asia, Oceania and the CONCACAF zone respectively.

Juventus coach Marcelo Lippi was named best coach of the year ahead of former Real Madrid coach Jupp Heynckes, whose club beat Juventus in last year's European Cup final.

Aime Jacquet was voted national team coach of 1998 for leading France to World Cup triumph on home soil.

NZ rocked by winding up order

New Zealand Soccer (NZS) has been hit with a winding-up order served by disgruntled former chief executive John Morton.

"I'm sick of being fobbed off," Morton, who was dumped by Soccer New Zealand in December 1997, said.

"As part of last year's confidential settlement it was agreed a sum of money - was to have been handed on to me by the association.

"I forgot about it for a while, but on Monday when I asked for it I was fobbed off by (NZS chief executive) Bob Patterson.

"I was getting nowhere, so I had my lawyer serve the papers under section

25 of the Companies Act.

"My object is to get what's mine," Morton said.

NZS chairman Dave Lamont said it had asked Morton for a letter requesting payment.

"The money came in before Christmas and once we have the letter we want we will hand it on.

"It is not money we have to find.

"As far as I'm concerned, he will be paid. I don't see any need for lawyers to be involved as it is not a contested matter."

Lamont said because the negotiations between Morton, his lawyers and NZS councillor Noel

Robinson - representing NZS - and former chairman Jock Irvine were confidential he was unaware of the total settlement.

"I'm sure Morton will see this as a chance to get one up on Bob Patterson," Lamont said.

While no one would say how much Morton is seeking, it appears it is between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Morton was chief executive of the formerly named Soccer New Zealand from July 1996 until he was dismissed in December 1997.

In March 1998 he lodged a personal grievance claim with the Employment Tribunal.

King Davo back at Pahang

ALAN DAVIDSON has accepted an offer from the rich Malaysian State club Pahang.

Frustrated at not being able to get an Ericsson Cup coaching position the former South Melbourne and Knights star has decided that his immediate future lies in the M League.

Davidson was nicknamed the 'King of Malaysia' after successive seasons in which he was regared as the country's best player.

It was a spell of unqualified success for Pahang - but they have struggled since he left.

Schoolboys Named

THE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS TEAM to tour New Zealand and Fiji from January 18-31 has been announced:

M Nash, G Fuchs, C Mansley, H Timmins, S Dimitrivski, C Zelvis (NSW), J Lihou (NT), P Kisorbo, M Collina, S Nikolovski, (Vic), S Gilroy, S Molenda (Qld), J Hopkins, J Christison, S McMillan, S Pearce (SA), H Gillett (ACT).

Coach: C James (NSW), Asst coach R Pratt (NSW), Manager C Conti (ACT), Manager A Pradella (Qld), Physio R Beazley (ACT).

the soccer connection



web site: <http://users.swavley.com.au/~soccerconn>
e.mail: soccercom@swavley.com.au

Africans move for solidarity

African soccer's governing body CAF wants to trim the number of countries from the continent bidding to host the 2006 World Cup.

Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa have all entered the race to stage the Cup along with former hosts Brazil, England and Germany.

CAF secretary-general Mustapha Fahmy told *Inside Soccer* from Egypt the executive committee of the organisation would meet in South Africa on January 26 to discuss a summit among the five candidates.

"The sooner CAF meets the African contenders the better, although it cannot impose its belief that there should be only one candidate as national associations apply, not confederations," Fahmy said.

"If CAF fails to convince the five countries of the necessity for just one bid from Africa there is nothing it can do except wish them all good luck," the official said.

Fahmy would not disclose whether the ruling body favoured one country and CAF president Issa

Hayatou from Cameroon has also maintained a neutral stance on the issue.

Sepp Blatter, president of world governing body FIFA, has consistently backed Africa to host the 2006 finals, provided it had the infrastructure needed.

While Blatter has avoided publicly backing one country, it is widely believed he considers South Africa the strongest candidate as it already has sufficient stadia and the most advanced infrastructure.

The Soccer Place ...

... for everything soccer ...

THINKING SOCCER?

Think

The Soccer Place ...

2182 The Northernh Road
Luddenham NSW 2745

CLUB SPECIALISTS, SOCCER GEAR
& GIFTS etc.

MAIL ORDER AVAILABLE
Ph: (02) 4773 3123 FAX (02) 4773 3127

Sir Bobby and Der Kaiser

Sir Bobby Charlton went on the attack in the race to host the 2006 World Cup when he declared England's bid rivals are running scared.

However, he immediately found himself under fire for his outspoken comments from the South Africans, who claimed that Germany were their main rivals as England could not rely on support from the rest of Europe.

Sir Bobby, the main figurehead of England's campaign, was attending the Expo 99 football trade fair in Cannes along with main rivals Germany, led by Franz Beckenbauer, and a South African delegation.

Accompanied by Sir Geoff Hurst, Charlton's team-mate in England's 1966 World Cup winning side, and campaign director Alec McGivan, Sir Bobby was buoyant at the news that Wembley - the centrepiece of the World Cup bid - has been sold to the Football Association.

And all three were determined to put behind them the 'cash-for-votes' scandal which led to the resignations of FA chairman Keith Wiseman and chief executive Graham Kelly.

Sir Bobby declared: "We have our critics and our competitors. I hear things from Germany and South Africa about why English football makes mistakes and why the World Cup shouldn't come to England.

"But the one thing that is

consistent is that every time a statement comes out from one of our competitors about the World Cup, they invariably mention England.

"Now why is that? It's because they are afraid of us and they respect the strength of our bid and they know that to win the World Cup themselves, the people they have to beat are the English."

Sir Bobby's comments caused friction with the South Africans, especially their campaign chief executive Danny Jordaan.

He retorted: "Surely the state of our anxiety should be expressed by ourselves. We don't need anyone else to pronounce on the extent to which we are competitive or otherwise."

"We are not concerned about any other candidate. Sir Bobby is entitled to his opinion but we are not afraid of them. We are just concerned about meeting and exceeding

The World Cup campaign to win the 2006 host nation honour started in earnest last week at Cannes

the FIFA requirements, and we are pursuing our own campaign relentlessly."

voters to make up their minds.

He said: "We all have a responsibility to remain open-

plan stand nearby.

The 'Kaiser' was admittedly largely on his own but the

"It's the most important thing for a long time that England host the World Cup in 2006. We are a major football and sporting country and we're important. If we're important, you have to make sure you get your fair crack of the whip at the major events."

"We believe Germany will get a substantial number of the European votes and so we believe they are the greatest threat to our bid."

Question marks still remain over South Africa's ability to host the tournament and the appalling crime-rate there.

South Africa's trump card remains an emotional appeal to FIFA for Africa to be allowed to hold the World Cup for the first time and they have already secured the public backing of FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

Franz Beckenbauer was nevertheless on hand to renew

claims that England had gone back upon a "gentleman's agreement" made by former FA chairman Sir Bert Millichip, to back Germany's claims in return for support ahead of Euro 96.

He was also complimentary about England's bid in the wake of the success of Euro 96 yet obviously feels that Germany have the strongest claim.

"We are ready, we are the perfect country at the centre of Europe, the whole nation is behind the idea, football is absolutely number one in Germany and there is political stability," he declared.

"Everything is there, we could host the World Cup tomorrow."

Although only a handful of actual FIFA voters were present, one of them, Concacaf general secretary Chuck Blazer, representing Central and Northern America, insisted it was far too early for

2006 campaigns which they lead for England and Germany.

Ever ready with a smile, Sir Bobby, a Manchester United legend posed for photographs next to the World Cup trophy, while Geoff Hurst his former team-mate shook hands next to a London taxi.

The strains of the Euro 96 anthem Football's Coming Home blared away in the background to accompany a publicity video proclaiming England as the traditional home of football.

Then it was off to a reception at which Charlton and Hurst individually greeted each visitor and then spoke with deep-rooted feeling about their conviction that England provided the strongest case.

The Germans were employ-

ing a somewhat different, rather more low-key strategy, but the presence of Beckenbauer ensured a steady stream of visitors to their own open-

libero role did not deter him for one moment as he picked off visitors with his charm with just as much precision as he had performed sweeper duties behind his country's defence.

Then there were the South Africans, who launched their continent's first World Cup bid with a stirring video invoking not only images of post-Apartheid hope and the country's natural wonders.

There were no high-profile footballers admittedly, but at least there was a ringing endorsement from statesman Nelson Mandela on video.

But whatever the long-term merits of South Africa's emotional trump card of widening football's appeal - a case perhaps summed up as 'our turn' - it was the sight of Beckenbauer and Charlton, both masters of the game, which caught the eye.

The two men remain close friends and there were certainly no signs of antipathy as they greeted each other, just a shared zeal and belief that they will succeed.

Sir Bobby, who plans to visit Thailand, South Korea, Japan, China and New Zealand within the space of just the next two months, revealed: "This is getting to be a bit of an obsession with me."

"It matters a great deal to me. It's a big event and a big responsibility if we get it, but if you don't have pride and don't try to do it with enthusiasm and confidence you're never going to do a good job."

"It's the most important thing for a long time that England host the World Cup in 2006."

"We are a major football and sporting country and we're important. If we're important, you have to make sure you get your fair crack of the whip at the major events."

"If we didn't go for these things we'd become less important. Why should we step back and not organise the major events?"

"My own personal feeling is that it brings it to a new generation. Young people respect and know about 1966 but they want their own heroes, their own success and their own opportunity to organise."

Beckenbauer is just as passionate about a job which takes up roughly half of his time as he insisted: "It's worth it if you have the chance to host the World Cup."

The former German player and coach remains confident that he can turn the tables on Charlton and Hurst, but there is no danger of good relations being thrown out of the window in the process.

"I am doing my job, Sir Bobby is doing his and it certainly doesn't affect our personal friendship," he said.

With 14 months to go until the final decision is taken, with many countries still to be visited twice or three times over and with countless trade fairs and conferences to be attended, they can rest assured that this fixture will become a regular event.

Attention Supporters

For a great range of soccer jerseys and accessories:
Manchester United
Liverpool
Red Star Belgrade
Juventus and much, much more
And don't forget our great range of videos on your club.
Send or phone now



TEL: (02) 4226 6422
Fax: (02) 4225 1488
SHOP 2, 219 KEIRA STREET,
WOLLONGONG, NSW 2500

PLAZA BARBER SHOP

"The Sportsman's Barber"
See Rocky or Frank

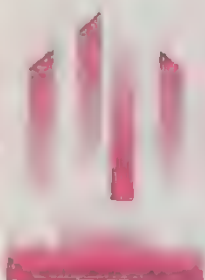
Shop 6, Short Street, Manly
(near the Post office)

TEL: (02) 9977 6704



Trivett Classic

**Trivett Classic
A Commitment to
excellence – recognised by
the BMW Trophy**



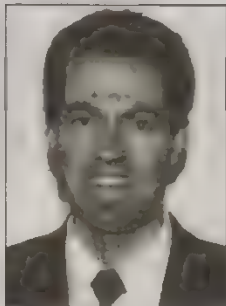
The BMW Trophy

At Trivett Classic we firmly believe that every aspect of our business should reflect the outstanding quality of the BMW cars we sell. Which is why we were awarded the 1996 BMW Trophy. To even be considered for this highest BMW Dealer accolade we had to meet among the most demanding standards of professionalism and customer service required in the Australian automotive industry. We are proud that we have been recognised for our excellence, and privileged to join such an elite group of BMW Dealers.



Paul Ferrari
Sales Consultant

**A comprehensive range
of services for a
unique range of cars.
For personal service,
professionalism and
experience contact Paul Ferrari.**



**40-64 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
Telephone (02) 9841 8888 Fax (02) 9841 8900**

McCann slates Mandic in Viduka affair

By Trevor Marshallsea

The Scottish Football Association has said it believed Celtic would have to pay the \$8 million transfer fee it agreed for Mark Viduka, despite the club's stand-off over the Australian striker.

SFA chief executive Jim Farry said although the Association would like to support Celtic in its row with Viduka's agents and his old club Croatia Zagreb, soccer's transfer laws meant his hands were tied.

The Daily Record newspaper said the game's governing body FIFA was likely to rule in Zagreb's favour in early March.

The news put a new twist on the Viduka saga after Celtic continued to show signs that it would attempt to cancel the deal.

"We have looked at the documentation and we have tried to find loopholes but so far we haven't found one," Farry said.

"We have consulted with FIFA and our member club to see if there is a way to bring this matter to an amicable conclusion but Croatia Zagreb, through their association, are saying: Please, can we have our money?"

"If FIFA order our club to pay and our club continues to refuse, then they could find themselves banned from playing."

A day after the bizarre appearance at Heathrow airport by Viduka and his agent, the International Management Group's (IMG) Bernie Mandic, Celtic sent a clear message that if any concession were to break the deadlock, it would have to come from the Australian striker's camp.

One source close to Celtic said IMG had called the club on Wednesday, but had made no offers aimed at a resolution, and no meetings on the matter were arranged.

Celtic again showed it would not budge on its demands that Viduka undergoes a medical by the club's own doctors, and agrees to receive his \$3 million share of the transfer fee in instalments over the three years of his contract.

"It's up to IMG to move it forward now," said the Celtic insider, who asked not to be identified.

Celtic's famously hard nosed managing director Fergus McCann has insisted no money will change hands until it is proven Viduka is ready to play.

The 23-year-old striker took a month off days after joining Celtic last month, citing emotional stress acquired in Zagreb.

Celtic says it had originally been prepared to give Viduka his \$3 million as a lump sum, but his immediate departure sparked concerns over his long-term intentions - hence the insistence on instalments. Signs emerged on Wednesday that Celtic manager Jozef Venglos and some players were as tired of the saga as McCann.

Venglos spoke to the media about Viduka following a brief conversation with him at Heathrow, but did not say he still wanted him at the club.

"We spoke openly and normally, the rest is now down to our officials," Venglos said.

"Negotiations are ongoing and we shall see how they go. It is not ideal."

"Obviously it's not good for the club if this keeps dragging on," said defender Alan Stubbs at Celtic's training camp in Spain, which Viduka had tried to join by going to Heathrow against Celtic's wishes.

And Fergus McCann, Celtic Managing Director, has made a public comment on the affair.

"IMG, the agents representing Marko Viduka, have been aware for some time that Celtic wished Marko to remain in Great Britain, so that outstanding contractual matters and a medical, involving specialists appointed by Celtic, could happen," he said.

"Despite being in possession of this information IMG staged a stunt, by way of their representative and the player turning up at Heathrow Airport to try and board a flight to Spain, knowing that this was against Celtic's instructions."

"Celtic is appalled by the lack of professionalism being displayed by IMG and their cynical use of Marko Viduka in this stunt."

"IMG have been aware, for over four weeks, of the action required to be taken to ensure everyone concerned receives satisfaction. Andrew Croker, the Vice President, indeed provided significant input towards a solution, including his proposal to have Marko's contractual situation resolved face to face with him in London."

"To date all it seems we have now received from IMG is bad faith and public stunts such as today's farce at Heathrow Airport. Celtic's patience with IMG is running very low, as they continue to perpetuate this tedious and unacceptable behaviour."

"It is Celtic's opinion that IMG is not acting in the best interests of Marko Viduka and certainly not Celtic Football Club. If they had been this situation could have been resolved some time ago."



Fergus McCann

Despite the possibility of further talks between IMG and Celtic, Scottish soccer commentators were expecting the case to end with the club seeking to cancel the transfer.

On a day in which the airport saga dominated Scottish back pages, The Scotsman's Neil McLellan said: "... it is now looking less likely that a solution will be found for the tawdry affair which seems to be dragging inexorably towards the courts."

Stubbs said that the rest of the Celtic players were "getting on with it anyway, but added: "If Mark is going to join us, it is better to be sooner rather than later."

"He has had a lot of time to think about it."

IMG made no comment on, though Viduka's Australian manager Bernie Mandic refuted McCann's claim the player's Heathrow appearance was a stunt.

"We don't play media games or do media stunts," said Mandic.

Ian Crook

How have you settled into Australian football?

It's been good, very easy in fact. The Northern Spirit players have made it easier for me and so has everyone at the club. My family has settled in and I'm thoroughly enjoying being here in Australia.

Impressions of your team-mates?

You don't want me to 'do' and impression of them do you! Seriously though, it's made easy or difficult when joining any new club by the players you are joining in with. It's the same anywhere else in the world and it comes down to the players and they've helped to make things really easy for me to settle in.

Biggest joker in the Northern Spirit squad – and those you've played with/against?

All three at once? I don't know that we've really got an out-and-out joker at Spirit but I have to say that Tony Perenich is a funny lad – but I'm not sure whether he knows that he is being funny. Back in England, I have to say that there were a few funny ones.

Trevor Putney, a lad who was at Norwich with me for a few years, is probably the funniest bloke I've come across. Surprising to some perhaps, Dean Saunders who was with Aston Villa, Liverpool, Derby etc is an extremely funny fella – but, sadly, I couldn't reveal why they were funny guys – maybe in private later.

Best player you've played with/against?

Without a shadow of a doubt, or having to think much about it, Glenn Hoddle, the current coach of England, is by far the easiest choice. He was short in some areas, there have been better all-round players, of course.

Graeme Souness was a perfect mid-field player in that he had everything but Glenn was just a genius. I suppose that is the best way to describe him. How he never got more caps for England than he did I'll never know. Probably, a little bit with him and a few other players of his calibre, he was a sensation in the wrong era. I think that had he been around when Terry Venables was in charge, or now even, he would be an absolute star for the national side.

The best player I've played against was Graeme Souness. He was the toughest, unbelievable. Liam Brady was, again, very, very similar to Glenn Hoddle. His all-round game was probably better but he didn't have the natural talent that Glenn had – but both of them were difficult to play against. Paul Gascoigne was another who was really difficult as your opposite number.

Everyone talks about the differences between football in England/Japan and Australia, but what are the similarities?

Well, we all wear football kit for starters and kick a ball around But the game is different anywhere in the world, wherever you go. In Japan it was very, very slow. Slow build up, not very physical. In England it is extremely quick and very physical and Australian football is more like the English game.

The similarities between English and Australian football are comparable although the game here is not as fast. The proof is in the pudding because

a lot of Australians are playing in England, which means that they can cope with that particular style of game because they've been used to playing it themselves.

How would you describe your short relationship with the Spirit fans and how do they compare, atmosphere wise, to those in Europe?

For 'short relationship' read 120 minutes long – which is basically all

Perth, if someone had said 'ten weeks' I'd have been happy to be honest because I thought at the time that that might have been it. For me to get an injury that could have kept me out for six months or something like that I would probably have taken a serious look at quitting then because at my age it would be difficult to come back. We've had a horrendous injury list and it's credit to the players that have come in because



Northern Spirit funny man Tony Perenich

I've played in front of them at Spirit Park. The atmosphere on the first night of the season was 'electric' and I think it will be very difficult to recreate that particular night's atmosphere. It would probably happen if we were in the Grand Final or something – but that night was a first. The atmosphere since then has been great but I don't think it has quite hit those heights again, but I have to say that our supporters have been fantastic, brilliant.

You say that your pet hate within the game is 'bad refereeing', but what is the worst refereeing decision against you/your team?

To put it in context, I've seen some bad decisions before but you have to look at something that has cost you and in my case it was being relegated from the Premiership with Norwich on the back of a disgraceful decision up at Elland Road when we played Leeds United. We needed to win to stay up and were leading 1-0 with about eight minutes remaining when the referee decided to give the home side a penalty when none of their players were appealing for one after Tony Yeboah tripped over his own feet.

That cost us Premier League status, even though we had obviously been poor over the year, of course. At the end of the day, that decision will have to go down as one of the worst.

Injuries have affected Northern Spirit this season – how badly did you feel when you realised the knock you picked up in Perth would keep you out for 10 weeks, and how did you cope with being on the sidelines having to regain your fitness?

I don't cope too well with being out of the side full stop! I'm paid to play and it's the playing that I enjoy the most and I don't really enjoy watching football, in that sense. I have to admit. At the time when I did it in

they've kept us in there with a shout.

Is it a coincidence that so many Spirit players have picked up knee injuries or are there, perhaps, sinister dark forces at work?

It makes you wonder, but no, it's purely coincidence. Quite a few of the lads have had a few problems but it's just one of those things, a coincidence. An unfortunate one but a coincidence all the same.

While out injured, you've been he with the Colts side. Is this a precursor for the future perhaps?

The way the results went, probably not! No, I've enjoyed working with the lads because they are so responsive. You ask them to do something and they do their utmost to do it. I think it's something I'd like to do on a full-time basis but just at the moment I still want to play.

What's the best match you've ever seen?

France v West Germany, World Cup semi final. Germany ended up winning on penalties after the game finished 3-3 if I remember rightly. The French outfield player got flattened by what looked to be an horrendous interception by the German 'keeper' Schumacher and after the dust had settled the referee awarded a goal kick! I probably could have picked that as one of the worst refereeing decisions I've ever seen. I think France were leading 3-1 during the game but, sadly, went out on penalties.

Your most frightening moment in football?

When you're playing in front of 50,000 at Old Trafford or somewhere and they're just about to score their fourth, or fifth that's pretty frightening, believe me. You don't feel too great at that stage. I can't say that I've been physically frightened in a game although trips

Profile

Name: Ian Crook

Born: 18 January 1963

Position: Sweeper

Height: 170cm

Weight: 72 kg

Previous Clubs: Tottenham Hotspur, Norwich City, Sanfrecce Hiroshima

Favourite Match: Bayern Munich v Norwich City at the Olympia Stadion (we won 2-1 in a UEFA Cup tie)

Biggest Disappointment: Losing two FA Cups semi-finals with Spurs. Being relegated from the Premier League with Norwich.

Biggest Career Influence: Doug Livermore (ex-Spurs manager)

Ambitions: to win the NSL title in Australia

Hobbies: golf, snooker

Football Superstitions: far too many to name

Favourite Player: Michel Platini

Favourite Overseas Club: Barcelona

Football Hate: Bad referees

Words of advice: enjoy the good times because the bad ones are far too many.

Favourite Food: Sunday roast dinner

Favourite Drink: Lucozade

Favourite TV Show: Only Fools and Horses

to The Den to play Millwall were usually eventful.

A funny event happened when I was with Tottenham and we were playing a European tie in Ireland.

We had been trailed by bodyguards for the previous three to four days as this was during the height of the troubles, and there was some sort of dispute as to whether we were actu-

ally going to play the match because of the situation. It was coming up to halftime and the lads were panicking a bit when the ball went out for a throw-in.

The ground announcer's voice boomed out over the loudspeakers: "Hello, hello. I have an announcement to make," and I swear the whole place just stood still and the crowd went deathly silent.

We all thought that this was going to

I have to be honest, for that split second in between the start and finish of the sentence I really did start to bottle it thinking a bomb was about to go off or something. I can live without that, but looking back, it's funny now.

Why your nickname 'Chippy'?

I'd like to say it's after Liam Brady – but it's not. The reason I picked up the name 'Chippy' was because of a puppet programme in England called Camberwick Green. I had a particular hair-do at the time and somebody at Spurs said I looked like 'Chippy Minton' (the carpenter in the show) and it stuck from then on.

Over the years, people have asked whether it was because I liked to nip off to the chip-shop or maybe because I chip the ball a lot and I've



be a bomb scare alert and the players, already jumpy because of the previous experiences of the last few days were getting very, very nervous when he continued: "Bovril will be served at half-time in the main stand."

just agreed with them, but that isn't the real story. I got the nickname from a puppet character in an English TV kid's programme.

Ian Crook, thanks for your time.

World's greatest scorer sets an example of life

"It is difficult for everyone. Goal scorers are not made, they come naturally. But the standards everywhere are not what they were. Ronaldo? He is, I think, a little over-rated."

Sports Feature
by Timothy Collings

If anyone has a right to squirm with frustration as modern strikers struggle to master the art of shooting accurately and scoring goals, it is Gerd Mueller.

The same Der Bomber who once shot, stabbed or rifled in 365 Bundesliga goals in 427 games for the Bavarians and an amazing 68 in 62 appearances for Germany.

The best goalscorer of all time?

Few would argue.

He won everything.

But since his net-busting heyday of the 1970s, while his records remained unbroken, the man himself nearly was - by alcohol.

Fading glory and boredom combined with the opportunities created by owning his own bar in Fort Lauderdale while he played in the US in the twilight of his career turned him into an alcoholic so surreptitiously he hardly knew it had happened.

"I did not realise, I just did not know," he said as he sat in the offices at Bayern's training fields where, now, nearly 10 years on, he works as a coach to the Bavar-

ian club's under-21s.

"Then, they just saved me from it."

The "they" Mueller referred to were his friends and former team-mates Uli Hoeness and Franz Beckenbauer.

Now general-manager and president of Bayern Munich respectively, these two are at the centre of the long-awaited overhaul of German soccer, set in motion recently when Beckenbauer became vice-president of the German Football Association (DFB).

Some have already claimed this is the biggest challenge of Beckenbauer's life and success could be his most important triumph.

This, according to those who work around them in the offices at Bayern, is not true - their greatest moment came in the salvation of 53-year-old Mueller's life.

Mueller was back in Munich, jobless and drinking, when he bottomed out, but without the single chilling moment of depression that made him catch his own face in the mirror of life.

Hoeness rescued him, organised his entry into a clinic south of Munich, arranged for his costs to be met by an insurance claim, supported him as much as possible and warned him that he had to stay sober to keep the job that lay ahead.

As he talked, Mueller's spectacles glinted in the wintry sunshine above a trimmed grey beard which gave him a semi-academic air.

He hardly looked like a retired goalscorer, but Mueller confirmed the existence of his greatest fear.

He dreads a return to the bottles of beer, wine, whisky other spirits which wrecked his life, upset his marriage to Uschi and his relationship with his only daughter in the days before Hoeness took him by the scruff of the neck in 1990.

"Now, when I go to a dinner, any kind of function, anywhere, I always check the food and the drinks first," he said.

"I ask about the sauces on the meat, the cream in the puddings. I need to know if there is any alcohol anywhere.

"I never want to go back and it only takes one drop. I was lucky

because Uli saved me.

"Bayern saved me. My family helped me. I did not understand any of it. I was incapable of helping myself until Uli helped me."

For Paul Gascoigne, the recovering English star who was recently admitted to an alcoholics' clinic, he has understanding.

"He needs his friends and he needs support to help through this time," he said.

"That is so important. It takes so much to get through this time. At my clinic, they wanted me to stay longer. But I was there for four weeks and it was enough for me. I came out and I have stayed out."

Mueller's bravest act has been repeated every day since. It was not a goal which won a Bundesliga title, or those which helped Bayern Munich lift European Cup for three successive years in 1974, 1975 and 1976, or any in his personal assault on the World Cup's striking records.

No, it is in his determination to stay dry, respected and employed by Bayern - the club he loves which has dragged him back from near-oblivion.

"I have incredible respect for him," said Karin Potthoff, Hoeness's secretary.

"I knew him as a player and as a man and I have known him these last 10 years. He has a true strength of character. Now we all feel like friends with him here at Bayern. I think that is part of his strength too."

Mueller himself, back living in a tracksuit, is content. His days are filled with training boys and youths. He takes satisfaction in seeing them grow and improve, but admits, with harsh realism, that the raw talent of his own generation no longer seems to exist.

"There is too much else in the world now for boys," he said.

"It is difficult for everyone. Goalscorers are not made, they come naturally. But the standards everywhere are not what they were. Ronaldo? He is, I think, a little over-rated.

"I think there is too much sport, too much money, television and other entertainment. Yes, too many temptations...."

His story is an example that many of today's players can learn from.

your
gateway
to the
online
soccer world

www.isport.com.au

is

coming
soon

- ☐ RESULTS
- ☐ DRAWS/FIXTURES
- ☐ NEWS/EVENTS
- ☐ MATCH REPORTS
- ☐ CLUB/TEAM HOME PAGES

Sydney Challenge

Sydney's Ericsson Cup teams will go head-to-head over the next four weeks to contend for the title of Sydney Champions.

The four teams - Marconi Fairfield, Northern Spirit, Sydney Olympic and Sydney United - have created the 'Sydney Challenge' and will play for points as part of their

scheduled Ericsson Cup fixtures.

Creating further interest for the local derbies, the Sydney Challenge will also be an added incentive for the teams to play with their hearts on their sleeves.

Players like Jason Culina (Sydney Olympic), Mark Rudan (Northern Spirit), Marcus Phillips (Marconi

Fairfield) and Walter Ardone (Sydney United) will all play against their former Sydney clubs, having changed allegiances at the start of the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup Season.

Sydney United's Project Manager Ante Grabovac stated: "Sydney United will set out to prove that we are the Champions of

Sydney.

"Already we have proved we are Sydney's best, defeating Northern Spirit 1-0 and thrashing Sydney Olympic 4-1.

"The only reason Marconi defeated us was we were reduced to ten men.

"The crystal is coming to Edensor Park," Grabovac added.

Frank Farina, Coach of Marconi Fairfield, said: "The Sydney Challenge will prove which of the four teams has what it takes to call themselves Sydney's best.

"We have some tough derbies to play, however we are confident we can overcome what the other Sydney clubs throw our way and bring home the trophy."

Northern Spirit Coach Graham Arnold said: "As the season goes on we expect results to improve as we gain cohesion and momentum.

"Playing all three Sydney teams in the next month is good timing for us, as several players are coming back from injury, and if we want to move up the ladder we have to defeat the teams who are gunning for a Top Six position, which includes all four Sydney teams.

"With our introduction into the Ericsson Cup all Sydney teams have lifted their standard, which is what we

Points for the Sydney Challenge, which do not impact on the Ericsson Cup table, will be awarded as follows:

- 4 points for an away win
- 3 points for a home win
- 1 point for a draw
- 0 points for a loss

The Sydney Challenge will be run over the following Ericsson Cup fixtures:

15 January Northern Spirit v Marconi Fairfield
24 January Sydney Olympic v Northern Spirit
26 January Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield
29 January Northern Spirit v Sydney United
31 January Sydney Olympic v Marconi

14 February Sydney Olympic v Sydney United
The winner of the Sydney Challenge will receive a trophy, donated by Bohemia Crystal, and the title of 'The best team in Sydney'. The event is likely to become a yearly challenge.

The Sydney Challenge

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Northern Spirit	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
2 Sydney United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Sydney Olympic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Marconi	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

are trying to do.

"The Sydney Challenge will be a good way for all Sydney teams to feed off each other and ensure that the Ericsson Cup comes back to Sydney.

"We are looking forward to playing all three matches in the Sydney Challenge," Arnold added.

Sydney Olympic

General Manager, Frank Martin, said:

"We were happy to dangle the bonus point for an away win in front of the clubs, because as far as we are concerned we will win all three of our home matches and the nine points will secure us the Sydney Challenge trophy."



Ascot Car Rentals' Geoff Kotsakis is flanked by Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina and players Peter Tsekenis and Scott Thomas at a select but lavish function on board the Ancora at Mosman's Middle Harbour last Friday.

Venables "not under consideration"

By Trevor Marshallsea and Anthony Stavrinos

Former Socceroos manager Terry Venables has been sacked as manager of his former club Crystal Palace after only five months in the job.

The Daily Mirror said Venables had been offered a job as a consultant at the club.

The news came after Venables' messianic return to Selhurst Park last summer after a break from club coaching while leading England in Euro '96 and then Australia in its failed World Cup bid.

Palace, which has four Australian players signed by Venables, has run into dire financial trouble under entrepreneur owner Mark Goldberg.

Venables has complained loudly that this has contributed to the club's poor form on the pitch.

Palace is in 14th place in the First Division with just nine wins from 26 games.

The Mirror said Venables was considering the consultancy role, which would include an input into transfers from abroad.

The paper said while Goldberg was expected to announce a mutually agreed departure from

the managerial post with Venables, the owner would stand out as the first man in English soccer to sack Venables.

Known as one of the game's innovators, Venables has brought 13 players to Palace in his squad of 40, including Australians Craig Foster, Craig Moore, Nick Rizzo and Steve Horvat.

Earlier this week, Venables said he was not given the money to spend on players that he was promised.

"Originally, there was quite a lot of money to spend and Mark asked me: 'Could you get promotion with this?' I said: 'Yes'.

"Well, it never materialised.

"I am not blaming anyone. Mark had problems in his takeover and got stretched a little bit."

Meanwhile in Sydney Soccer Australia has ruled out the return of Terry Venables to Australia to take charge of the Socceroos in the lead up to the next World Cup in 2002.

Palace chairman Mark Goldberg also owns 70 per cent of NSL team Northern Spirit.

SA's executive director David Woolley said a decision on the next Soc-



ceroos coach would not be made until the late this year or early in the year 2000.

"We wouldn't be in a position to make that decision if he (Venables) became available," Woolley told *Inside Soccer*.

"There are quite a number of other coaches that are available if we wished to make approaches to them now.

"In order to have a full time high-paid national coach you have to have a very heavy schedule of matches and our intention is to give priority to the Olyroos."

Venables' swan-song for the Socceroos was back in June last year when he exited the national coaching job with a 7-0 drubbing at the hands of Croatia just before the start of the World Cup in France.

Prior to that, Venables led the Socceroos undefeated through the qualifiers for the tournament, falling down at the last hurdle after a 2-2 with Iran at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in November 1997 which ended Australian hopes of taking part in the tournament for the first time since 1974.

World XI game causes angst at SFS

By Anthony Stavrinos

World Soccer's governing body FIFA has officially announced plans for a prestigious fixture between the Socceroos and a World XI in Sydney later this year.

FIFA's new president Sepp Blatter made the announcement during the Football Expo trade fair in Cannes, France.

The match will form the centrepiece of the official opening of Stadium Australia at the Homebush Olympic complex on June 12.

The choice of venue has raised the ire of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust.

The Trust's chief executive officer Noel Neate

said an exclusivity arrangement existed with Soccer Australia under which Socceroo fixtures could only be played at Sydney Football Stadium.

Other benefits made available to SA, including office facilities adjacent to the SFS, were also included in the 15-year agreement struck in 1994 by former SA chairman John Constantine.

"The trust has always been supportive of where soccer wants to go and how it wishes to conduct its business," Mr Neate said.

"Soccer Australia has received benefit for a number of years under the agreement.

"If there is an opportunity, as covered by that

agreement, for the trust to then take some benefits under it, that's entirely appropriate."

SA's executive director David Woolley confirmed that it had been notified of the Trust's concerns but said there had been no breach of agreement.

"The agreement that we have with the trust is for matches under the control of Soccer Australia," Woolley said.

"This match isn't under the control of Soccer Australia."

Woolley said he had taken part in regular meetings with Neate "to see how both parties can best get a better deal" with a view to re-writing the existing agreement.

Zenith blasts Zois

ZENITH Football management director Chris Tanner has hit back angrily at a story which appeared in last week's *Inside Soccer*.

In the print and on-line edition, the article alleged that Zois had sent a letter to clubs that would be used as a threat to force them to sign him as a goalkeeper.

Neither Zenith nor Tanner were named in the article but Tanner has said "we

were disappointed to read comments which we believe are pointed to our company."

Tanner has further accused Zois of leading a trail of debts and broken promises through England and has indicated that his company is not a member of the Football Federation of Australia (FFA) and is not associated with the player making in Europe.

'Tillies on road to World Cup finals

By Graham Cooke

Australian women's soccer coach Greg Brown proclaimed the Australia Cup experiment a success after his team gained the inaugural trophy with a 1-0 win against Italy at Bruce Stadium last Wednesday evening.

"It adds a bit of bite to our preparations (for the World Cup).

"We could have played three friendlies but it wouldn't have been the same," he said.

Brown believed the Matildas were on track for the World Cup later this year and was looking forward to a tough eight-nation competition in Portugal in March.

"If anything, there will be a stronger line-up there than in the World Cup itself," he said.

Brown agreed that Australia's win on Wednesday had been less than sparkling "but this was always likely to be a bit of a chess game," he said.

Italy's coach Carlo Facchin, said his team was always going to be up against it after having three players sent off against Australia last week, and therefore suspended for this game.

"It is difficult to perform without your stars," he said.

But he would not mind playing Australia again in the World Cup finals "because I am sure we would not have to put up with this same referee."

Australia took the lead in dramatic style in the 19th minute.

Referee Tammy Ogston, the centre of so much controversy after the first meeting between the two, awarded the Matildas a penalty.

Big midfielder Cheryl Salisbury delivered a very ordinary spot kick which goalkeeper Giorgia Brenzan, diving to her right, turned round the post.

Italy's joy was short-lived.

From the resulting corner, taken by Lisa Casagrande, Salisbury rose high at the near post to do with her head what she had failed to do with her feet seconds previously.

It was a generally down-beat performance

from the Italians, who were playing without Manueila Tesse, Rita Guarino and Alessandra Palliotti, all sent off by Ogston in last week's brutal clash between the two in Sydney.

The visitors managed one scoring chance in the first half a scorching 30m drive from Patrizia Sberti which Australian goalkeeper Belinda Kitching tipped over the bar.

At the other end, player of the match Alison Forman was unlucky when her powerful header was brilliantly saved by Brenzan.

Salisbury, carrying an injury from Australia's 4-3 win against Canada on Sunday, slowed to a walk in the latter stages of the half and did not come out after the interval.

Australia missed her commanding presence.

They missed her in the 59th minute when Sberti was allowed to drift in unmarked from midfield.

Picking up a half clearance, she elected to try to steer the ball into the net



'Tillies coach Greg Brown

rather than simply blasting it - and steered it wide across the face of the goal.

The Matildas should have wrapped up the game when Julie Murray beat a defender with her now trademark body swerve and change of

pace, firing in a shot which Brenzan could only beat out.

The loose ball bounced well for Sharon Black who, blazed well over the bar.

Earlier, Canada beat Australia A 1-0. Attendance: 2,500

Moore hat trick puts Stars in pole position

SA Stars has taken equal first position after its emphatic 5-0 win over Northern New South Wales Horizon at Newcastle on Sunday in round five of Women's Soccer Ansett Australia Summer Series.

In the other match on Sunday, played in Sydney, QAS Sting comfortably defeated reigning champion New South Wales Sapphires 2-0.

Sharon Black led South Australia with a stunning hat-trick against Northern Horizon, which had two players sent off by the referee.

The weekend's result has tightened the race for the final at the halfway point of the season with SA Stars ahead of NSW Sapphires on goal difference at the top of the ladder.

QAS Sting has advanced to equal second place alongside Canberra Eclipse.

SA Stars was at its attacking best - Jessica Halfpenny and Black giving the visitors a 2-0 first-half lead.

Kristy Moore stretched the advantage to three before Black completed her hat-trick with a stunning drive and a long-range chip.

Midfielder Shelly Youman was sent off for a challenge on the keeper soon after the break and teammate Alison Forman received a second yellow card with 14 minutes remaining.

A Kim Revell double in the second-half was enough for Queensland Stingers to upset NSW Sapphires at Marconi Stadium.

The Sapphires sorely missed injured Matildas Julie Murray, Joanne Peters and Bridgette Starr.

In Saturday's round five action, a fantastic goal from SA striker Halfpenny gave the visitors a valuable 1-0 win over Northern Horizon.

At Marconi on Saturday the Sapphires took the lead through Michelle Carney just before the break but Queensland Sting controlled possession in the second-half and equalised from the penalty spot through Sarah Garven.

Frankie's old team are in town ... and there is going to be a party Marconi Fairfield

v Brisbane Strikers

Sunday 24 January Kick Off 5.00pm

**BIG MATCH SPONSOR
CHIPPY'S FOOD DISTRIBUTORS
MAJOR SPONSOR
BRESCIA FURNITURE**

NEXT HOME FIXTURE:

13 February v Canberra Cosmos



Aussies disappoint in Olyroo opener

Australia got off to a disappointing start in its two-game international series against South Korea, losing an injury-riddled clash 1-0 at Mobil Park in Morwell last Friday.

The Olyroo campaign could not have had a worse beginning, with key defender Ivan Zelic straining a thigh during the pre-game warm up.

Zelic was carried from the field by teammates and is now a doubtful starter for the second game of the international series against South Korea at Melbourne's Bob Jane Stadium next Friday night.

Northern Spirit striker Clayton Zane was forced from the field in the 30th minute with a back problem and will also undergo a fitness assessment.

South Korea was not spared in the injury department either.

Lee Kwan-Woo, who scored the only goal of the game in sensational style, came off late in the first half with a soft tissue injury in the neck and was taken by ambulance to the nearby Latrobe regional hospital as a precautionary measure.

Only minutes earlier Lee was the toast of the South Korean camp when he received the ball 30 metres from the goal line and unloaded a powerful strike that rocketed in the bottom left of the net past goalkeeper Joe Didulica at full stretch.

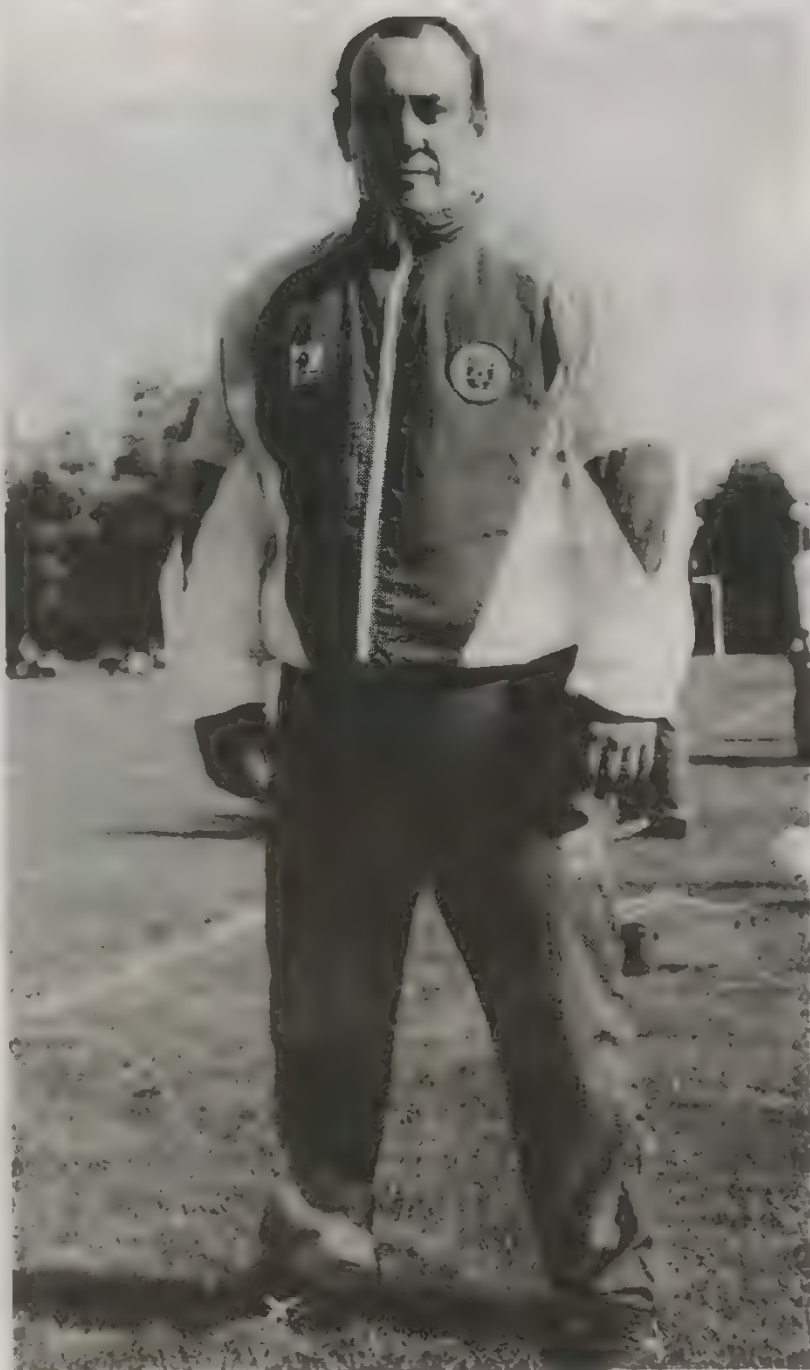
The Olyroos had several chances to equalise, the best of which fell to captain Brett Emerton in the 67th minute.

He gathered the ball just outside the six yard box, yet did not hit his shot cleanly and sprayed it over the crossbar.

"That was a wasted opportunity," Emerson said later.

"I will have to put in some practice on those."

The other great opportunity came in the opening minute of the game, when the South Korean keeper spilled a cross from Zane and



the ball fell to Michael Curcija with the keeper still off his line.

The shot however was saved on the goal line by South Korea defender Sim Jae-Won.

In the 91st minute as the game was drawing to a close, Christian Care was brought down in the penalty box by what appeared to be a crude tackle, but referee Gerry Connolly ruled there was no infringement.

Olyroo coach Raul Huh Jung-Moo was

Blanco later said he thought the penalty was definitely there.

"It would have been a penalty anywhere else in the world, but in Australia, as usual, kindness prevails," he said.

Blanco was disappointed in the effort of his side in the first 20 minutes, but said there was good improvement in the second half of a game marked by contrasting styles.

South Korean coach

pleased with the performance of his inexperienced side.

He described the series as a "training run" for his players, who had not long come together as a squad and said the team was becoming better adjusted each day.

The game attracted a crowd of 1500 people which was disappointing considering it was the first taste of international soccer for the region.

Australia Under 23 0 South Korea Under 23 1

Scorer: K Lee 42

Venue: Mobil Park, Morwell

Referee: G Connolly (Australia)

Attendance: 1,500

AUSTRALIA: J Didulica, R Bove, C Coyne, S Sinozic, D Nastevski, J Burns (Z Susa 82), M Robertson (C Care 45), B Emerton, K Wehrman (J Culina 45), M Curcija, C Zane (M Sterjovski 30)

SOUTH KOREA: Y Kim, D Chung (S Lee 55), S Cho, J Park, J Sim, D Park, K Lee (B Sin 45), D Kim, H An (S Jung 62), K Seol, C Choi (R Park 45)

THE STARS OF TOMORROW

National Youth League Round-up

With Roy Hay

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Knights v Albury

Melbourne Knights scored through Hrvoje Matkovic after only four minutes and held on to beat Albury Wodonga by that goal at Myrtleford.

Albury pressed hard all day, even when down to ten men late in the second half through injury.

But as John Nemeth reports lack of strikers has been the border club's undoing this season.

This is a rebuilding year and Albury is attracting players from both sides of the border, including Wagga Wagga and Shepparton.

Bulleen v Falcons

Bulleen Inter led Gippsland Falcons by a goal to nil till the last ten minutes, when injury reduced it to ten men, and Andreas Nilo took advantage to score a lighting hat-trick in that late spell.

Bulleen played well but paid the penalty in the heat.

Carlton v South Melbourne

Carlton had a four-two win over South Melbourne at Optus Oval.

It was two-all at the break after Carlton had scored twice early on, the first inside 57 seconds, the second shortly after.

Andrew Mashoian and Erhan Bayraktar brought South Melbourne level by the interval.

In the second half Carlton powered away to win comfortably in the end.

Carlton's goals came from Deniz

Ekici who got two, Ace Stojcevski and Tony Ouliaris.

NORTHERN DIVISION

United v AIS

In the catch-up game from Round 13 the AIS downed Sydney United Colts by five goals to one at Edensor Park last Wednesday.

Luke Boyd scored for the Colts, and the Institute's goals were spread among five players, Lucas Pantelis in 18 minutes, Elias Dimoutzidis in 24, Daniel Vasilevski in 57, then two late goals from Mark Graham in 86 and Kévo Gulesserian in 87.

Newcastle v QAS

Round 15 began with a five goal thriller at Breakers Stadium won by Newcastle by three goals to two against QAS. Chad Mansley scored twice for the Breakers and Tony Bauer got the

other, while Russell Miner's double kept QAS in contention until the end.

AIS v NSWIS

There were two scoreless draws in this round. The AIS and NSWIS played the first of these. It was a much more open and attacking game than the score suggests. John Cvetanovski, the former VIS sweeper was outstanding in defence for the AIS, while for NSWIS Arthur Domanis and Shane Lockhart at the back, Nahuel Arrarte in the middle and keeper Matthew Nash were the top players. Todd Brodie also starred for the AIS.

Northern Spirit v ACT Academy

The other no score game was between the Northern Spirit Colts and ACTAS.

Marconi v Northern Spirit

Luke Tomich's goal after 49 minutes gave Marconi Fairfield its narrow one-nil win over Northern Spirit at Cromer Park on Saturday.

This was another very close match, but Marconi took its chance and Spirit missed.

Wollongong v Sydney United

Wollongong Wolves had a ten-nil romp at the expense of Sydney United Colts, who never stopped trying and Allan Lo Proto in particular kept his head up throughout.

Sasha Dimovski's hat-trick, was backed up by two goals from Chad Bishop and the rest came in singles from Victor Constabile, Kane Maccabei, Nathan Thompson, Graham Goodfellow and Steve Karavatakas.

United v Wollongong

Sydney United beat Wollongong Wolves

Colts by two goals to nil, scored by Daniel Kukucka and Josip Moric.

Olympic v Marconi

Finally Sydney Olympic beat Marconi Fairfield Colts by three goals to nil at Belmore on Sunday night. Paul Kohler opened the scoring in the first half for Olympic and Ali Jomaa added two in the second.



Forthcoming matches

Northern Division

Friday 22 January 1999

Newcastle Breakers v Sydney United, (Breakers Stadium, 5.45 pm)

Wollongong Wolves v AIS, (Brandon Park, 5 pm)

Saturday 23 January 1999

Marconi Fairfield v QAS, (Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)

Northern Spirit Colts v Sydney Olympic Academy, (Christie Park, 4 pm)

Sydney United Colts v Marconi Fairfield Colts, (Edensor Park, 5 pm)

Wollongong Wolves Colts v ACTAS, (Brandon Park No 2, 4 pm)

Sunday 24 January 1999

Sydney Olympic v Northern Spirit, (Belmore Sports Ground, 4 pm)

Bye v NSWIS

Tuesday 26 January 1999

Sydney Olympic Academy v Wollongong Wolves Colts, (Wentworth Park, 4 pm)

Marconi Fairfield Colts v AIS, (Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)

Northern Spirit v Sydney United Colts, (Cromer Park, 4 pm)

QAS v Sydney Olympic, (Suncorp Stadium, 4.30 pm)

Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield, (TBA, 7.15 pm)

ACTAS v Newcastle Breakers, (Bruce Stadium, 4.30 pm)

Wollongong Wolves v NSWIS, (Brandon Park, 4 pm)

Bye v Northern Spirit Colts

Robbie Dazzler stuns inept Marconi

By Anthony Stavrinou

National Soccer League debutants Northern Spirit finally came out of the footballing closet with a 4-0 winning performance that sent yet another packed house at North Sydney Oval into frenzied celebration.

It was a match where the experienced and respected visitors, Marconi, were meant to show NSL newcomer Northern Spirit who's boss on the turf.

But it was the Spirit that would eventually have the last laugh with four well-deserved goals to silence its doubters.

From the outset, this match promised to produce fireworks with play switching from end to end in the first five minutes and the

crowd of 17,507 loving every minute.

The home side opened their account in the 24th minute after Marconi defender Mark Babic failed to clear a free kick from the right from Spirit midfielder Ian Crook and the towering Spirit defender Paul Bilokapic was left with a free header into the back of the net.

Four minutes later, Spirit added another after a brilliant through ball from classy midfielder Kresimir Marusic found the feet of striker Robbie Slater on the right and his hard, low shot deflected off the feet of hapless Marconi

keeper David Aceski.

Marconi appeared to have pegged one back shortly after in the 30th minute from a Francis Awaritefe header, but it was ruled offside by referee Eugene Brazzale after advice from his linesman.

Spirit put the game further out of the reach four minutes from half-time when another piercing ball from Marusic found the feet of Slater on the right again.

Slater sent the ball across to the left to 18-year-old Spirit striker Daniel Watkins and his unselfish touch found the feet of hard-working Marusic, rewarded for his surging

run forward with the opportunity of a simple touch into the back of the net.

In the second half, play became even more one-sided with Spirit launching a barrage of attacks some coming frustratingly closed. And in the 88th minute, a solid strike by youngster Watkins wrapped up the formalities for the home side after a well executed cutback from Slater, who was later named man of the match.

Marconi can count themselves lucky after this walloping at the hands of Spirit - the scoreline could easily have been more.



Slater: the former Socceroo was a real Robbie Dazzler

NORTHERN SPIRIT 4 (Bilokapic 24, Slater 28, Marusic 41, Watkins 88)
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Man of the Match: Robbie Slater SPRT

TRADITION & TECHNOLOGY

Every football pitch has its own stories, its own legends. Stepping onto the grass is like following in the footsteps of all those fabulous players who made football the greatest show on earth. In the process of developing, designing and manufacturing ASICS football boots, technological aspects are extremely important. But we never forget about tradition.

ASICS has its own way of making history. The highlights of our new football collection form a landmark in that history.



asics

Little John fires Breakers

By Steven Smith

Newcastle Breakers extended their unbeaten record to five games with a hard fought 1-0 Ericsson Cup victory over the Brisbane Strikers at Breaker Stadium on Friday.

Better disciplined defending has been the cornerstone of the Breaker's improved showing in recent weeks.

There were clear-cut chances in a scrappy affair, the winner coming in the 75th minute from the Breaker's diminutive striker John

Buonavoglia.

Breakers left-wingback Glenn Sprod took the ball to the by-line before driving over a cross which was only pushed away by Strikers goalkeeper Clint Bolton to the in-rushing Buonavoglia, who poked the ball home from three metres.

It had taken until the 24th minute for the Brisbane Strikers to create the game's first opportunity.

When the Breakers only half-cleared the ball from a corner Wayne Shroj unleashed a rasping drive

from 25 metres which Breakers goalkeeper Bob Catlin gathered at the second attempt.

The Breakers nearly opened the scoring in the 27th minute when two of their attackers just failed to get on the end of a hard and low cross from midfielder Mark Wilson.

Shortly after Wilson shot wide after some neat Breakers build-up play.

Wilson was in the thick of things again in the 36th minute bursting into the Strikers penalty area before crossing for Sang-Chul Yoon who got a toe to the ball but saw Strikers defender Andrew Davidson clear his shot off the goal line.

As the first half drew to a close the Breakers

started to get on top and Yoon managed to get on the end of a Sprod cross* headed over the bar from seven metres out.

The Breakers carried on in the same vein in the second half, defender Andy Roberts making a rare run forward before firing in a fierce shot which Bolton parried away for a corner.

Naturally Breakers coach Lee Sterrey was delighted with the team's performance.

"We've had three clean sheets in consecutive games against three very good teams," he declared.

"The boys are now believing in themselves and we are playing some damn good stuff."



Newcastle defender Tommy Haythornthwaite

NEWCASTLE 1 (Buonavoglia 75)
BRISBANE 0
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Man of the Match: John Buonavoglia NEWC

Cosmos struggle for first point

Hapless Canberra Cosmos secured its first point after 14 rounds of the national soccer league with a 1-1 draw against fellow straggler Gippsland Falcons at Mobil Park on Sunday night.

The game had been rescheduled because of Australia's Under 23 international against South Korea here on Friday night.

The Cosmos came within five minutes of grabbing a further two points for a win before yielding the late equaliser, leaving coach Tom Sermanni with mixed emotions.

Referee Brett McKay made nine bookings in the hard-fought match and sent off two players, Norman Kelly from the Cosmos and Falcon striker Lachlan Armstrong - who had spent two seasons previously with the Canberra side.

Going into the match

Canberra had scored a meagre seven goals in 14 outings but Gippsland had bagged one fewer.

And it was Canberra that controlled the play for much of the first half.

It was rewarded in the 44th minute when confusion broke out in the Falcons defence as the ball was played into the penalty area.

Several Falcons' defenders hesitated before Canberra's Peter Buljan pounced on the loose ball and slotted it past the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Bojo Jeudjevic.

Canberra maintained its dominance in the second half with some good running on the ball. But the home side began to press late in the piece with substitute Marko Perinovic causing problems for the Canberra defence.

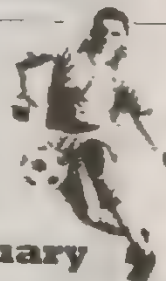
In the 85th minute a Perinovic header from a corner kick found Levent Osman who was able to gain control and put away the equalising goal.

Falcons coach Stuart Munro was relieved but felt his side should have beaten Canberra at home because it was a team lacking confidence.

The Cosmos were fielding two of their new signings with former player Gordon Hunter, who came back on a rescue mission from Scotland Premier League side Dundee last week, still not cleared and out of action.

Ironically Hunter's first ever game for the Cosmos was last November when his inclusion against Gippsland Falcons earned the club its first point of that season after a similar barren run. But despite the much-valued point Canberra have now not won a game in its last 22 league outing - a horror run stretching back to January 1998.

ERICSSON CUP SOCCER



Ericsson Cup Round 16: 22-24 January
Friday 22 January

Wollongong Wolves v Carlton
Brandon Park 7.30pm
Newcastle Breakers v Sydney United
Breakers Stadium 8.00pm

Saturday 23 January

Gippsland Falcons v South Melbourne
Mobil Park 7.00pm

Sunday 24 January

Marconi Fairfield v Brisbane Strikers
Marconi Stadium 5.00pm
Adelaide Sharks v Canberra Cosmos
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm
Sydney Olympic v Northern Spirit
Belmore Sportsground 6.30pm
Perth Glory v Adelaide City
Perth Oval 5.00pm

Bye: Melbourne Knights

SOCCER AUSTRALIA SCORES UPDATE SERVICE
1900 123 035

NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1 (Osman 85)
CANBERRA COSMOS 1 (Buljan 44)
Venue: Mobil Park
Man of the Match: Ka

Fighting United spark revival

By Sam Lienert

Two late goals to Michael Santalab and Mile Sterjovski gave Sydney United a thrilling 2-1 win against Adelaide Sharks in their NSL match at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday evening.

United trailed for most of the second half after Derek Poimer scored in the first minute after the break but Sydney replied in the 87th and 89th minutes to pull off the win.

Sydney was aided by the sending off of Sharks defender Paul Pezos early in the second half after his second crude tackle for the night.

The two sides started the match 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off due to the hot conditions but neither

team appeared to be excited to be playing in a lacklustre opening half.

But the Poimer goal - set up by substitute Alex Duric - sparked

the game into life.

The intensity lifted further 13 minutes into the half, when Pezos was sent off after receiving his second yellow card.

Sharks coach Manfred Schaefer moved regular forward Hamilton Thorp into defence, leaving Poimer alone up forward in a bid to stop United scoring.

But Sydney playing coach David Mitchell countered by bringing himself off the bench and was instrumental in his side's revival.

Santalab levelled the scores in the 78th minute, controlling a

son, United piled on the pressure in a series of narrow misses.

Three shots were cleared off the goal-line in a five-minute burst including a Mitchell header which beat goalkeeper David Miller and was just kept out by the lunging right foot of defender Branko Milosevic.

But the winner was finally scored by teenager Sterjovski, who converted a long Jacob Burns cross with a high-leaping header in the dying minutes of the match.

United moved to third spot with the win and inflicted the

character to win after a week of off-field speculation about the club's future and after trailing the Sharks late in the second half.

"Obviously the man being sent off made it easier but we put the ball in the net twice which is the hardest thing to do," Mitchell said.

"Some people would have said it's not going to be our night and just dropped their heads but we kept fighting and I think we deserved it.

"It's a credit to the players that they want to do it for each other, we have a great team

ple who are thinking of putting some money

into the club so hopefully by us winning it

will help that happen," Mitchell said.



ADELAIDE SHARKS 1 (Poimer 46)
SYDNEY UNITED 2 (Santalab 87, Sterjovski 89)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Mile Sterjovski SUTD

header into the bottom left of the net after a Walter Ardone free kick from about 25 metres out. Sensing the chance of its second away win for the sea-

Sharks' fourth straight loss, the slump coming after a strong start to the season.

Mitchell said after the match his players showed tremendous

spirit."

He said that the good on-field results would hopefully spark a turnaround in the club's off-field showing.

"There are some peo-

Culina in devastating form as Matic sizzles at Belmore loss

Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic described his team's 2-1 National Soccer League loss to Sydney Olympic on Sunday as one of the "most embarrassing moments" of his career.

The silence in Adelaide's dressing room at Belmore Sports Ground after the game was deafening as Matic munched on sandwiches "to stop myself from eating the chairs and tables".

"The loss to Newcastle (1-0, two weeks ago) was bad but tonight was disastrous. It is one of the most embarrassing moments of my soccer career," said Matic, who was a professional player in Yugoslavia

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Tome 1, Cardozo 53)
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Hassell 88)
Venue: Belmore Sportsground
Man of the Match: Jason Culina SOLY

before embarking on a successful coaching career in Australia.

"There must be something terribly wrong with us, we are cheating the club the way we presented ourselves."

The pick of the goals was Pablo Cardozo's effort eight minutes after half-time.

The NSL's leading goalscorer had a long range shot ram against the cross bar and the rebound landed at the feet of fellow striker Norman Tome whose shot

hit the right post.

Cardozo, who last year played for leading Austrian club Rapid Vienna, was on hand to smash the rebound into the net, much to the delight of the Olympic fans who by now were on their feet.

That was Olympic's second goal and it was Tome who had opened Olympic's account when the game was only 55 seconds old.

Cardozo's cross from the left was blocked by Adelaide defender Milan Ivanovic.

The ball dropped to another defender, Mark Yates, who panicked and his attempted clearance went across the goal to Tome who slotted in an easy goal.

Former Olyroo Bradley Hassell pulled a goal back in injury time with a crackling volley from outside the box.

It made his captain Alex Tobin's missed penalty kick five minutes earlier after a foul on teenage midfielder David Terminello all the more agonising for Adelaide.

But coach Matic said his team did not deserve a draw, anyway. The first half was all Olympic and apart from the first minute

goal, the home team had three chances to score.

In particular Olympic's two Olyroo internationals Brett Emerton and Jason Culina were outstanding.

Both had played a game in Morwell on Friday night against South Korea yet showed little effect of two games in less than 48 hours.

Culina, in particular, was in dazzling form running at defenders at will.

The pocket sized midfielder also grabbed a number of long range shots himself and with an ounce of luck would have finished up on the scoresheet.

As it was this was a mesmerizing performance showing maturity well beyond

his teenage years.

Although the scoreboard at the end of the match showed a narrow win, the truth was this was as one sided as a four goal drubbing. If Olympic coach Branko Culina has any cause for concern it is that his side did not inflict the kind of scoreline on the game that City coach Matic obviously expected.

Makeshift central defender Scott Thomas also had a stunning game for Olympic as did Milan Blagojevic while 'keeper George Bouhoutsos had little to do.

However he did keep his except keep the score realistic with one second half save which was pure class.

MARTH AND CERVINSKI TWIST THE KNIFE

By ALAN CLARK

Despite a stuttering start, Carlton saw off home-town rivals Melbourne Knights, 4-2 at Optus Oval on Sunday.

According to Knights' coach Vid Horvat, the loss means a top six place is out of reach.

"We always must have ambition, but I don't know if it's reality to think of the six," he said.

He would have been happy at half-time, as the teams were locked at one-all, with Knights having at least as much to draw heart from as Carlton - maybe more so given the teams' respective positions on the ladder.

Simon Colosimo was in the Carlton line-up after an ab-

sence through injury of several weeks.

Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic opted to return him to the formation in mid-field, rather than as sweeper, and explained: "He hasn't played for a while. (I played him) behind the two forwards.

"I thought his acceleration would cause a bit of havoc, and it did."

Colosimo put the coach's plan into action midway through an otherwise restrained opening to the game.

He commenced a storming run from the half-way line, watched as Knights defenders backed off as the players they were marking made intelligent off the ball movements, only to blast over the bar.

Barely five minutes later, Colosimo was also instrumental in yet another ram-paging foray before passing wide to Joe Tricarico on the right.

Tricarico's shot went across the face of the goal, just beyond Andy Vlahos' despairing right foot lunge.

Ivan Kelic, on the hunt for his one-hundredth NSL goal almost achieved that milestone just before the half-hour.

A slip by one-time teammate, and now his principal tormenter David Cervinski allowed Kelic in for a shot from the edge of the penalty area, but watched as it flew over.

Colosimo's runs were clearly causing Knights some trauma, and increasingly he found his runs halted by unlawful means.

CARLTON 4 (Tricarico 36, Moriera 47, 61, Marth 65)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2 (Kelic 42, Susa 88)
Venue: Optus Oval
Man of the Match: Alex Moriera CARL

One led to the booking-of Dragi Nastevski.

The next had a more punishing outcome.

Carlton captain Andrew Marth, another Knights old-boy, took the resulting free-kick, but blasted it into the Knights wall.

The ball rebounded to Mark Atkinson - like Colosimo returning to first-team action after some weeks absence through injury.

Atkinson cleverly fed the ball wide to where Cervinski

down a long ball played up the right, and out-fought the otherwise faultless Marcus Stergiopoulos.

Kutlesovski managed to keep the ball in play at the corner, then play a ball neatly into the path of Kelic who scored his hundredth with a low drive wide to Adrian Cagalj's right.

"We must make some nice presentation to Ivan (before the next home game against Gippsland Falcons). Kelic is a great man, a great leader, a

fielder after ten minutes, just Kelic up front, and Kutlesovski wide on the right.

"I planned to play six players in the midfield."

"But in the first minute they scored, and so then it would be crazy to put another player in midfield."

Fittingly, it was Marth who had made a bustling run straight through the middle and played a through ball perfectly for Alex Moreira, by now facing only Didulica, and the Brazilian emerged trium-

phant.

Horvat's re-arrangements were put aside.

Just after the hour, two goals in three minutes put the game beyond the reach of Knights.

Firstly, Tricarico had made an advance down the right, turned his marker several times on the edge of the penalty-area before crossing.

Vlahos - one of Carlton's smallest players - managed to get his head to it, sending it on to Moreira, laying in deadly wait inside the six-yard box.

Once again, it was Moreira who won out.

Three minutes later, the Knights old-boy duo - Cervinski and Marth - combined to twist the knife.

Cervinski's shot was too hot for Didulica to hold, rebounding for Marth who delighted in smacking the ball high into the now un-guarded net.

Zeljko Susa restored some respectability to the score-line from a Knights perspective when he netted from inside the six-yard box after Kelic set him up, but despite a late flurry of action from Knights, the points were Carlton's.

Krncevic says it's too early to narrow down the Grand Final aspirants.

"The cream will rise to the top in the next five to seven games," he says.

"The second half of the season is very crucial."

"Hopefully, we'll be one of those teams in there."

It would be a rash action to bet against it.

Own goal downs lack lustre Glory

Wollongong revived its national soccer league play-off hopes with a shock 1-0 win over a lacklustre Perth Glory at the Oval on Sunday.

The Wolves 1-0 upset was their fourth win of the season and at the halfway stage they are still very much in contention.

Wollongong secured the three points through a Danny Hay own goal, but that did not diminish their effort.

The visitors played a disciplined, smothering brand of soccer which infuriated the second-placed Glory and the 14,826 fans on hand expecting to see a Perth whitewash.

Hay had defended grandly all match until his sliding bid to stop a Matthew Horsley shot ricocheted off his leg and floated into the net in the 73rd minute.

The Kiwi international, who was voted Oceania's seventh best player during the week, then set about helping his side gain a point.

In the 83rd minute, he nearly succeeded with a well timed header that looked set to find the net, only to be saved by Wollongong keeper Leslie Pogliacomi.

PERTH GLORY 0
WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (own goal 73)
Venue: Perth Oval
Man of the Match: Troy Halpin PRTH



Ivan Kelic: scored for Melbourne Knights



Horsley: his shot did the damage

Five minutes later Hay unleashed a powerful strike which just cleared the crossbar.

Both teams had a host of scoring opportunities and ironically, the Glory's best came just 60 seconds before Hay's own goal.

Talented midfielder Troy Halpin floated a shot over the head of Pogliacomi which looked on target until it struck the crossbar.

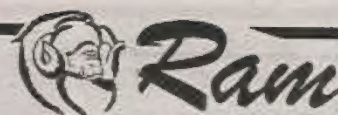
Perth's loss leaves it in second position, but ruined any hope the WA team had of joining reigning champion South Melbourne at the head of the table.

The Glory will be anxious to find out the plight of Kiwi international Gavin Wilkinson, who did not reappear after halftime, instead watching the final 45 minutes from the stands after changing.

Wollongong's win maintains its recent domination over Perth, with the Wolves winning their last three encounters with the Glory.

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



RAM SPORTS

ENGLAND

Tuesday 12 January
F.A. Cup third round replays
(I denotes first division club, II second, III third, ML minor league):
Yeovil (ML) 1 Cardiff (III) 2 after extra time. Cardiff away Sheffield United or Notts County in the fourth round)
Barnsley v Swindon postponed
(New date: Tuesday, January 19. Eventual winners at home to Bournemouth)
Notts County (II) v Sheffield United (I) postponed
(New date: Wednesday, January 20. Eventual winners at home to Cardiff)
Friday 15 January
DIVISION 2
Colchester 1 Wrexham 3
DIVISION 3
Chester 1 Brighton 1
Saturday 16 January
PREMIER LEAGUE
Chelsea 2 Coventry City 1
Derby County 1 Blackburn Rovers 0
Leeds United 2 Middlesbrough 0
Leicester City 2 Manchester United 6
Liverpool 7 Southampton 1
Nottingham Forest 0 Arsenal 1
Tottenham Hotspur 0 Wimbledon 0
West Ham United 0 Sheffield Wednesday 4
DIVISION 1
Barnsley 0 Birmingham 0
Bradford 4 Crewe 1
Bristol City 1 Tranmere 1
Bury 1 Queen's Park Rangers 1
Crystal Palace 2 Stockport 2
Grimsby 1 Oxford 0
Norwich 1 West Bromwich 1
Port Vale 0 Swindon 1
Portsmouth 1 Huddersfield 0
Sheffield United 1 Bolton 2
Wolverhampton 0 Watford 0
DIVISION 2
Bournemouth 2 Notts County 0
Burnley 1 Chesterfield 2
Gillingham 3 York 1
Macclesfield v Stoke postponed

Manchester City 3 Fulham 0
Northampton v Walsall postponed
Oldham 3 Blackpool 0
Preston 2 Luton 1
Reading 0 Bristol Rovers 6
Wigan v Lincoln City postponed
Wycombe 0 Millwall 1
DIVISION 3
Brentford v Halifax postponed
Carlisle 0 Scunthorpe 1
Darlington v Hull postponed
Hartlepool 2 Barnet 2
Peterborough 2 Cardiff 1
Plymouth 3 Mansfield 0
Rotherham 3 Leyton Orient 1
Scarborough 1 Exeter 0
Shrewsbury 3 Southend 1
Swansea v Cambridge postponed
Torquay 2 Rochdale 1
gthon 1

PREMIER LEAGUE

As at Sat 16.1.99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Chelsea	22	11	10	1	34	18	43
2. Manchester United	22	11	8	3	49	26	41
3. Aston Villa	21	11	7	3	31	20	40
4. Arsenal	22	10	9	3	23	11	39
5. Leeds United	22	9	9	4	36	20	36
6. Liverpool	22	10	5	7	43	26	35
7. Wimbledon	22	9	7	6	29	33	34
8. West Ham United	22	9	5	8	25	31	32
9. Middlesbrough	22	7	10	5	32	28	31
10. Derby County	22	7	10	5	22	20	31
11. Tottenham Hotspur	22	7	8	7	28	30	29
12. Leicester City	22	7	8	7	25	27	29
13. Sheffield Wednesday	22	7	5	10	25	22	26
14. Newcastle United	21	6	6	9	24	29	24
15. Everton	21	5	9	7	13	21	24
16. Blackburn Rovers	22	5	6	11	21	29	21
17. Coventry City	22	5	5	12	21	31	20
18. Southampton	22	4	5	13	20	46	17
19. Charlton Athletic	21	3	7	11	24	34	16
20. Nottingham Forest	22	2	7	13	18	41	13

Sunday 17 January
DIVISION 1
Sunderland 2 Ipswich 1

BELGIUM

Friday 15 January
Excelsior Mouscron 2 Anderlecht 3
Saturday 16 January
DIVISION
Westerlo 2 Lommel 1
Ghent 3 Standard Liege 2
Beveren 0 Harelbeke 3
Charleroi 2 Lokeren 1
Genk v Ostend - match postponed because of a waterlogged pitch,
Sunday 17 January
Club Bruges 3 Sint-Truiden 2
Kortrijk 3 Lierse 2
Germinal Ekeren 1 Eendracht Aalst 0

FRANCE

Saturday 16 January

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympique Marseille	21	14	6	1	38	14	48
2. Girondins Bordeaux	21	14	3	4	44	18	45
3. Nantes	21	9	7	5	29	22	34
4. Rennes	21	9	6	6	26	25	33
5. Olympique Lyon	20	8	8	4	26	19	32
6. AJ Auxerre	21	8	6	7	29	25	30
7. Bastia	21	9	3	9	27	25	30
8. Monaco	20	8	5	7	28	20	29
9. RC Lens	21	8	5	8	29	26	29
10. Montpellier	21	8	4	9	38	35	28
11. Paris St Germain	20	6	7	7	18	17	25
12. Strasbourg	20	5	9	6	17	21	24
13. Metz	20	5	7	8	18	28	22
14. Nancy	20	5	6	9	18	26	21
15. Le Havre	21	4	7	10	15	27	19
16. Lorient	21	4	7	10	17	32	19
17. Sochaux	19	3	7	9	16	34	16
18. Toulouse	21	2	9	10	14	33	15

GREECE

Saturday 17 January
Panionios Athens 2 Ethnikos Astir Athens 0
Olympiakos Piraeus 3 Xanthi 1
PAOK Thessaloniki 1 Proodeftiki Piraeus 0
AEK Athens 2 Iraklis Thessaloniki 2
Ionikos Piraeus 1 Paniliakos Pyrgos 1
Apollon Athens 4 Ethnikos Piraeus 0
Aris Thessaloniki 3 OFI Iraklion 1
Kavala 2 Veria 1
Panelefsiniakos v Panathinaikos on Monday.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos Piraeus	15	12	1	2	40	11	37
2. AEK Athens	15	10	3	2	34	13	33
3. PAOK Thessaloniki	15	10	2	3	26	16	32
4. Panathinaikos	14	9	1	4	29	18	28
5. Xanthi	15	8	4	3	17	12	28
6. Aris Thessaloniki	15	8	3	4	21	19	27
7. OFI Iraklion	15	7	2	6	20	19	23
8. Ionikos Piraeus	15	6	3	6	25	18	21
9. Ethnikos Astir	15	6	2	7	21	24	20
10. Iraklis Thessaloniki	15	5	5	5	23	18	20
11. Panionios Athens	15	6	2	7	29	20	20
12. Kavala	15	5	5	5	26	32	20
13. Paniliakos Pyrgos	15	5	2	8	19	23	17
14. Panelefsiniakos	14	2	7	5	10	17	13
15. Proodeftiki Piraeus	15	3	4	8	15	22	13
16. Apollon Athens	15	2	4	9	19	40	10
17. Veria	15	1	4	10	6	23	7
18. Ethnikos Piraeus	15	0	4	11	4	37	4

IRELAND

Sunday 17 January
Sligo Rovers 1 St Patrick's Athletic 4
University College 0 Shamrock Rovers 2
Finn Harps 1 Cork City 1
Bohemians v Derry City postponed
Shelbourne v Dundalk postponed
Waterford United v Bray Wanderers postponed

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Cork City	20	14	4	2	37	11	46
2. St Patrick's Athletic	20	14	3	3	40	16	45
3. Shamrock Rovers	19	8	7	4	29	23	31
4. Finn Harps	19	7	7	5	26	23	28

5. Shelbourne	19	7	6	6	22	19	27
6. University College	20	6	8	6	20	20	26
7. Derry City	19	6	6	7	23	22	24
8. Bohemians	19	5	4	10	16	24	19
9. Waterford United	18	5	4	9	10	28	19
10. Bray Wanderers	19	5	3	11	20	34	18
11. Dundalk	19	3	7	9	13	22	16
12. Sligo Rovers	19	3	6	10	19	32	15

ITALY

Sunday 17 January

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Fiorentina	17	11	2	4	31	18	35
2. Parma	17	9	5	3	31	15	32
3. Lazio	17	9	5	3	33	19	32
4. AC Milan	17	8	6	3	25	19	30
5. AS Roma	17	7	6	4	36	24	27
6. Inter Milan	17	8	3	6	32	25	27
7. Bologna	17	6	7	4	20	13	25
8. Bari	17	5	10	2	22	18	25
9. Juventus	17	6	6	5	18	17	24
10. Udinese	17	6	5	6	21	26	23
11. Cagliari	17	6	2	9	28	28	20
12. Perugia	17	5	4	8	23	31	19
13. Piacenza	17	4	6	7	24	27	18
14. Vicenza	17	3	6	8	10	22	15
15. Sampdoria	17	3	6	8	16	32	15
16. Empoli	16	3	7	6	13	21	14
17. Salernitana	17	3	4	10	13	28	13
18. Venezia	16	2	6	8	8	21	12

Note: Empoli deducted two points for attempted match fixing

NORTHERN IRELAND

Saturday January 16
Glentoran 2 Crusaders 1
Linfield 3 Glenavon 1
Newry 1 Coleraine 0
Omagh Town v Ballymena United postponed
Portadown 0 Cliftonville 1

SPAIN

Saturday 16 January

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celta Vigo	18	9	7	2	37	20	34
2. Mallorca	18	9	5	4	20	12	32
3. Real Madrid	18	9	4	5	39	26	31
4. Valencia	18	9	3	6	29	20	30
5. Atletico Madrid	18	8	5	5	32	20	29
6. Athletic Bilbao	18	9	2	7	27	27	29
7. Barcelona	17	8	4	5	34	21	28
8. Real Zaragoza	18	8	4	6	24	21	28
9. Deportivo Coruna	18	7	6	5	24	22	27
10. Real Sociedad	18	7	5	6	25	22	26
11. Oviedo	18	7	5	6	23	26	26
12. Real Betis	17	7	4	6	17	18	25
13. Villarreal	18	6	5	7	25	26	23
14. Espanyol	18	5	7	6	19	20	22
15. Racing Santander	18	5	6	7	21	24	21
16. Valladolid	18	5	3	10	16	25	18
17. Alaves	18	4	4	10	13	28	16
18. Salamanca	18	4	4	10	16	32	16
19. Extremadura	18	4	3	11	11	31	15
20. Tenerife	18	2	8	8	18	29	14

SCOTLAND

Tuesday 12 January
DIVISION 1
Hamilton 0 Clydebank 1

DIVISION 2

Forfar v Clyde postponed
Livingston v East Fife postponed
DIVISION 3
Berwick v Ross County postponed
Cowdenbeath v Brechin postponed
East Stirling v Dumbarton postponed
Queen's Park v Stenhousemuir postponed

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Hibernian	24	17	5	2	55	24	56
2. Falkirk	24	12	6	6	39	25	42
3. Airdrieonians	23	12	5	6	31	24	41
4. Ayr	23	12	3	8	45	29	39
5. St Mirren	24	8	7	9	20	29	31
6. Clydebank	23	7	9	7	23	27	30
7. Greenock Morton	23	6	6	11	23	27	24
8. Hamilton	24	5	9	10	27	39	24
9. Raith	24	5	8	11	24	38	23
10. Stranraer	24	4	2	18	24	49	14

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Livingston	21	14	6	1	41	22	48
2. Inverness	22	12	6	4	44	32	42
3. Clyde	21	9	7	5	29	21	34
4. Partick	22	10	3	9	23	23	33
5. Stirling	21	9	4	8	34	36	31
6. Alloa	22	8	4	10	46	36	28
7. Arbroath	21	7	5	9	19	26	26
8. East Fife	20	6	4	10	26	39	22
9. Queen of South	20	3	6	11	20	29	15
10. Forfar	20	2	5	13	22	40	11

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Ross County	20	15	1	4	50	20	46
2. Brechin	19	11	6	2	24	13	39
3. Stenhousemuir	21	10	4	7	33	23	34
4. Albion	21	9	3	9	27	38	30
5. Dumbarton	20	8	4	8	27	25	28
6. Berwick	20	6	9	5	25	24	27
7. Queen's Park	21	5	7	9	24	26	22
8. East Stirling	21	3	10	8	25	28	19
9. Cowdenbeath	20	5	3	12	20	36	18
10. Montrose	21	4	5	12	24	46	17

WALES

League of Wales
Saturday 16 January
Aberystwyth v Cwmbran Town postponed
Afan Lido 0 ICT Cardiff 2
Bangor City 2 TNS Llansantffraid 1
Barry Town 1 Connah's Quay 0
Cardiff City v Conwy postponed
Holywell Town 2 Rhayader Town 2
Newtown 1 Haverfordwest 1
Rhyl 1 Caersws 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Barry Town	17	13	2	2	50	12	41
2. ICT Cardiff	19	9	5	5	34	17	32
3. Cwmbran Town	16	9	4	3	39	18	31
4. Aberystwyth	16	8	5	3	27	22	29
5. Newtown	18	7	7	4	28	20	28
6. TNS Llansantffraid	18	6	8	4	33	23	26
7. Caernarfon Town	17	6	8	3	24	25	26
8. Caersws	18	6	5	7	26	34	23
9. Bangor City	18	6	4	8	22	27	22
10. Haverfordwest	18	5	8	5	31	32	20
11. Conwy	16	5	4	7	25	29	19
12. Carmarthen Town	16	5	3	8	22	25	18
13. Connah's Quay	14	4	5	5	15	19	17
14. Holywell	18	2	9	7	22	42	15
15. Rhyl	17	4	2	11	23	45	14
16. Afan Lido	15	3	4	8	9	24	13
17. Rydahder Town	15	3	4	8	19	35	13

UNDER 23 OLYMPIC
INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE



Australia

v

South Korea



MATCH 2:

Friday 22 January 1999

Bob Jane Stadium, South Melbourne

Kick Off 7.30pm

The cream of Australian youth and the stars of the future. See Australia's Olympic team as it continues its build up to the 2000 Olympic Games.